

100th Briese vessel installs se@COMM

www.globecommsystems.com/maritime

Telaurus Communications, a Globecommm Maritime company, has completed the installation of its 100th se@COMM system for customer Briese Schiffahrts.

se@COMM manages communication via e-mail, fax, telex and SMS, as well as permitting controlled web browsing. The application features real-time e-mail delivery capabilities and pre-pricing by the kilobit, enabling users to see how much their connectivity is costing as they work.

The se@COMM system and Satlink Inmarsat FleetBroadband 250 terminal for the 100th installation were supplied by Telaurus to the 2008-built combination carrier BBC Jade in March 2011, two years after Briese became the first company in Europe to fit FleetBroadband 150 on its coastal vessel Saxum.

The contract was managed by Telaurus' German sales and support office in Hamburg, and the achievement marked during the recent *Digital Ship* Hamburg conference by a presentation of a plaque to Holger Boerchers, Briese Schiffahrts IT manager.

The migration to FleetBroadband using the se@COMM system involved the replacement of Briese's legacy communications and e-mail messaging system, to cope with an increasing volume of data traffic and the need for transparency in managing the cost of ship-shore messaging.

"The fleetwide transition towards se@COMM and FleetBroadband has been a long process that needed great commitment and professionalism from all those involved," said Mr Boerchers.

"We are pleased to have achieved the 100th installation after working so closely with Telaurus and look forward to a continuing collaboration with them."

In other news, Globecommm Maritime has also announced that the Telaurus se@WEATHER application, part of the Telaurus se@COMM package, is now to be made available with no monthly



Malcolm McMaster, Telaurus; Holger Boerchers, Briese Schiffahrts; and Heiko Hoefer, Telaurus, mark the 100th vessel installation

subscription fee.

se@WEATHER is an icon-driven, graphical marine weather analysis system providing instant access to current global weather with sea condition data, including surface pressure, wind direction, significant wave heights, fronts, and tropical storms.

Powered by Applied Weather Technology (AWT), se@WEATHER utilises the same interface found in AWT's BonVoyage System marine voyage optimisation software.

"The introduction of Inmarsat FleetBroadband and other higher bandwidth technologies allows ship operators to make use of powerful data applications that can improve vessel safety and productivity," said Malcolm McMaster, VP Globecommm Maritime and president

Telaurus Communications.

"se@WEATHER offers the benefits of allowing the vessel's master to view high quality analyses of current global weather and sea conditions at any time. We wanted to make se@WEATHER a free of charge option to enable owners to see for themselves the increases in productivity that are possible when used with broadband."

The data is delivered in a compressed format to minimise communication costs and generates colour-enhanced graphics which allow the ship's master or navigation officer to view weather and sea conditions.

Customers who were previously paying a monthly fee will now be able to use the service free of charge, while new customers who register for a subscription will not be subject to any fees.

Orbit hits 1,000

www.orbit-cs.com

Orbit Communication Systems has announced that it has recently shipped its 1,000th OrSat maritime VSAT system.

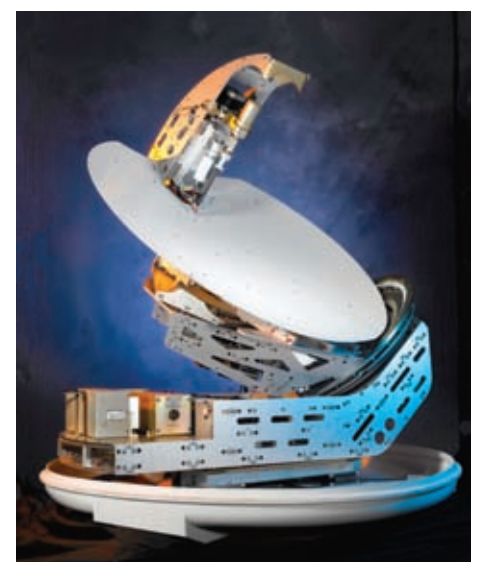
Originally introduced to the market in 2007, the OrSat system has been delivered to various segments of the maritime industry including oil and gas, navies, commercial shipping, mega yachts and fishing boats.

Speaking about reaching the milestone, Orbit CEO and president Avi Cohen said that this achievement was a testament to the quality of the satellite hardware.

"In this very competitive market, major maritime IT integrators require proven systems that mitigate project risk and reduce ongoing maintenance costs," he said.

"OrSat's unprecedented track record is a testament to its technological superiority, operational performance and reliability over time."

"Our customers expect immediate and effective support for both deployment and operations. To this end, we back up our OrSat products with a network of hundreds of trained technicians worldwide to assist customers with any support issues that may arise."



The 1,000th OrSat maritime antenna has been shipped

Free broadband from SingTel

www.singtel.com

Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) has announced a new initiative whereby it will offer free 128 kbps satcom services to customers who purchase a C-band antenna.

This free service will last for two years, and applies to those who sign up for the system between now and 30 June 2011.

In addition to this VSAT offer SingTel is also launching a new web portal for crew members, to distribute news and help them manage their communications with friends and family ashore.

The crewXchange@singtel portal, based at the website crew.singtel.com, allows users to subscribe to news feeds, access e-mails, and chat with their friends using various messenger platforms.

This 'lightweight' portal is available free of charge to all SingTel maritime broadband customers, and has been optimised to cater for the bandwidth limita-

tions onboard vessels at sea.

"SingTel is committed to transforming and enhancing the way the maritime seafarers work, live, learn and play," said Bill Chang, executive vice president of SingTel's Business Group.

"crewXchange@singtel will provide a bandwidth-optimised networking platform where the seafarer community can communicate with their headquarters more efficiently, get connected with their loved ones, be updated with the latest knowledge through e-learning content and get access to entertainment content more cost-effectively."

"It is a service that will be very valuable for the welfare and upgrading of maritime crew members."

To facilitate better communication among their own crews, companies can also set up their own private chat rooms.

SingTel estimates that almost 10,000 crew members will benefit from this com-

munity network, which it envisages being accessed by seafarers logging onto the portal from their own laptops or devices while on the vessels.

In related news, SingTel has also announced that its new ST-2 satellite has completed assembly and integration, and successfully passed all major tests. The satellite is currently being shipped to its launch site, and is scheduled for launch in mid-May 2011.

A joint venture with Chunghwa Telecom, the satellite has been put through a series of acoustic, vibration and thermal-vacuum tests to ensure its robustness ahead of its journey into space.

"SingTel is the only home-grown company in Singapore to own commercial satellites and we are very excited about the launch of ST-2, our second satellite," said Mr Chang.

"With 20 per cent more transponder capacity and a wider coverage footprint than

ST-1, ST-2 will help increase our capacity to meet growing customer demand for fixed and mobile satellite services."

ST-2 will have a footprint of C-band and Ku-band coverage that will cover the Middle East, Central Asia, the Indian sub-continent and South East Asia, with built-in switching capabilities among different regions.

"ST-2 is almost twice as powerful as our first satellite, which means our customers' antennas don't have to work as hard to pick up signals. This translates into greater energy efficiency and cost savings for them," added Mr Chang.

SingTel says that, with its expanded footprint allowing customers in the maritime industry to access satellite communications over larger areas while out at sea, demand for ST-2 services has been strong, with over 70 per cent of capacity already signed up by customers (though this also includes land-based business).

ST-2 will be launched by an Ariane-5 rocket from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana, with ST-1, launched in 1998, to go into inclined orbit.