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Wired Ocean ready to maximise FleetBroadband

Increased performance and reduced costs now available for early FleetBroadband adopters

Wired Ocean has completed the development and testing to enable its unique Satellite Broadband Server (SBS) to integrate with and enhance performance of Inmarsat FleetBroadband. Users of the next generation Inmarsat service can now benefit from increased shore-to-ship (downlink) data speeds and greatly reduced costs made possible through the innovative Wired Ocean system.

The introduction of FleetBroadband has pushed high-speed internet into the marine mainstream, however, the pricing per megabyte of data puts the full benefits of broadband usage out of reach of many vessels. Wired Ocean can reduce the costs per megabyte of shore-to-ship FleetBroadband data to approximately 10% by channelling the downlink through a vessel's satellite TV antenna.

When used in conjunction with FleetBroadband, the Wired Ocean SBS brings with it a tangible increase in downlink speed – a Wired Ocean downlink can be almost twice the speed of a standard FB250 downlink without the Wired Ocean SBS integrated. This makes the system ideal for high volume applications such as internet browsing, downloading email with attachments, obtaining electronic manuals and weather and navigation data for bridge and critical systems.

To complement this outright speed Wired Ocean has also incorporated state of the art performance enhancement systems to minimise latency (processing lag or time delay), remove unnecessary handshaking and to compress and cache transferred data. The unique performance enhancing systems are built into the Wired Ocean network hub and SBS, negating the need for any software to be loaded onto ship computers. The improved broadband performance and reduced costs gained from the Wired Ocean SBS could enhance everything from IT processes through to crew welfare.

By making broadband affordable at sea and enhancing existing communications systems, Wired Ocean is the ideal solution for most vessels sailing with Inmarsat equipment onboard. Vessels fitting an FB500 will benefit from improved responsiveness and 20% faster downlink speeds. These vessels will also benefit from per megabyte shore-to-ship costs of as low as 10% when compared to FleetBroadband as well as further cost savings made possible through the performance enhancement features of the SBS.

Vessels fitting an FB250 benefit from similar cost savings and get performance over and above that of FB500 for less initial investment. Even vessels not ready to upgrade to FleetBroadband can receive both low cost data and faster downlink speeds by orders of magnitude with Wired Ocean onboard. Downlink data cost is approx. 5% of the cost of standard MPDS, with shore-to-ship speeds faster than FB500.

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"FleetBroadband users will see an immediate boost in the performance of their communication systems after the simple integration of Wired Ocean, when sailing in our coverage area of European waters and when not in coverage, users can be confident of a seamless fallback to their FleetBroadband or other services," comments Victor Barendse, Managing Director, Wired Ocean. "It's features like this that make Wired Ocean an enabler for those vessels not yet equipped with FleetBroadband. By substantially reducing data costs whilst enhancing functionality, the decision to invest in a FleetBroadband and Wired Ocean solution is an easy one."

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