

Ocean Trans Co. chooses IPSTAR Maritime Broadband

www.thaicom.net
www.ipstar.com

IPSTAR Japan, a Thaicom subsidiary, reports that Tokyo-based shipping company Ocean Trans Co. has selected its end-to-end broadband service to provide its crew with internet access.

"We have previously considered the introduction of satellite communication based services for the welfare of our crews who stay on board for long periods of time. But the investment costs and monthly fees were prohibitively expensive," said Takahiro Akaishi, executive officer of Ocean Trans Co.

"The IPSTAR Maritime service is very cost-effective and we are now considering

its introduction on all vessels of our fleet scheduled to be completed by 2016."

IPSTAR says that its Maritime Broadband allows crews to call home, send e-mails, share photos and access social networks, without interrupting operational communications.

In Japan, the service was launched with speeds of up to 4Mbps/2Mbps and prices starting at 5 million yen (\$50,000) for the equipment and installation, with monthly service fees ranging from 30,000 to 50,000 yen (\$300-\$500).

IPSTAR targets long-distance ferries and merchant vessels with this Maritime Broadband service, which it will introduce in other markets in Asia Pacific as well.



IPSTAR services are available in Asia

1,000 seafarers watch World Cup final at sea 'as live' on KVH

www.kvh.com

KVH reports that more than 1,000 seafarers watched the World Cup final via its IP-MobileCast service.

The game which pitted Germany against Argentina on Sunday 13 July was shown 'as live' with a short delay. In the month that led up to the final, video highlights of every other World Cup match were delivered to subscribing ships via multicasting technology as part of KVH's SPORTSlink service.

"With IP-MobileCast, the crew experienced something they've never had before: watching the World Cup while at sea," says Eugene Diongzon, master of the BW Prince, a tanker that was transiting the Atlantic Ocean during the football competition. The crew gathered daily to watch the highlights.

"They are big fans, and even before the matches started, they knew the names of all the star players, the team standings, and the game schedules. The quality of the picture was excellent - we actually noticed no difference from when we had satellite TV along the coast versus out at sea, watching with the IP-MobileCast service. This was a first for all of us."

The merchant vessel Bison Express was

on the Solomon Sea off Papua New Guinea when the final was played, from where the captain sent word to the shipping company that: "Officers and crew salute you for this great endeavour!"

Unlike previous games, of which only highlights were shown, the entire final was transmitted. KVH's engineers and technicians on two continents guided the transmission, which was multicast to onboard media servers, where it was available for viewing during the match.

"This was an incredible engineering achievement, with 4GB of game data multicast to vessels around the world, including far out to sea, with no issues in the transmission. Mariners have never had this kind of coverage on their vessels," says Martin Kits van Heyningen, KVH's chief executive officer.

During the football tournament, KVH's NEWSlink service also sent a daily 'World Cup 2014' bulletin, and that special edition, in English, "broke all records in terms of numbers of subscribers," notes Kate Hart, KVH Media Group's editor in chief.

"A special team of editors stayed up until after midnight every day to cover the event and ensure the special edition was in vessels' inboxes promptly," she said.



The crew of the BW Prince enjoyed World Cup coverage at sea. PHOTO: BW Prince

Algoma renews Imtech contract

<http://imtech.com/EN/Marine>

Imtech Marine reports that Canadian shipping company Algoma Central Corporation has renewed and upgraded its VSAT Connectivity contract, allowing it to deploy crew internet on board its 34 vessels operating on the Great Lakes.

For the past six years Algoma had a VSAT Connectivity package together with two other Great Lakes operators, American Steamship Company and CSL, but it decided that it would like an independent VSAT Connectivity package for its Canadian fleet of dry-bulk carriers and product tankers.

"Algoma Central Corporation is pleased to partner with Imtech Marine to provide VSAT services to our Canadian fleet of vessels," said Peter Winkley, Algoma Central Corporation vice presi-

dent, Finance and CFO.

"The contract renewal created a private network with increased bandwidth for the Algoma fleet, allowing Algoma to deploy wireless internet connectivity to our crew members on board all vessels."

Kara Babb, Imtech Marine QHSE manager, noted: "The vital thing is the vessels maintain their business functionality, while at the same time, the crew can keep in touch with family and friends via the internet."

"The airtime bandwidths are separated so the crew has full access to the internet without them delaying any business operations."

The three-year renewal includes the iDirect Ku-band Global VSAT Service (6 megabytes) and two Voice over IP (VoIP) lines.



The AlgoCanada product tanker, one of 34 vessels covered by the new deal. PHOTO: Algoma Central Corp

Telemar FBB supply deal in Singapore

www.telemargroup.com

Telemar has announced that it will provide FleetBroadband services to Asiatic Lloyd, a container shipping line based in Singapore.

Asiatic Lloyd operates a dozen ships, most of them of 1,100-1,200 TEU capacity but with a couple of 9,000 TEUs, and mainly operating on intra-Asian trade.

Telemar says that it reached an agreement, through its Singapore subsidiary, to supply FleetBroadband services, in partnership with Inmarsat. The deal initially

covers four ships, with a plan to cover 17 or more by 2016 as Asiatic Lloyd expands its fleet.

"The partnership may extend also to bridge electronics Maintenance Services," said Ravi Bhade, managing director of Telemar Singapore, mentioning the company's "successful track record in commissioning and servicing hundreds of ships in the Singapore area over the last two years, combined with the group's leading experience with more than 4,000 ships under total maintenance on a global scale."