

Digital Ship

News

New merchant maritime GSM system launched

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Globe Wireless has launched its new GlobeMobile system, a complete GSM solution for vessels which will allow crews to use personal GSM phones for voice and SMS communications while on deep sea voyages.

GlobeMobile, launched at the Digital Ship conference in Oslo this week, can operate over VSAT, Iridium OpenPort and Fleet Broadband terminals, controlled by a custom-built Globe Wireless GSM network.

This network provides standard voice calls to and from the ship, full SMS message support, and onboard mobile to mobile calling, while also allowing visitors to the vessel to 'roam' onto the ship.

Pre-paid SIMs are used for voice and SMS service while aboard the ship, and can also be used while on shore using standard GSM roaming.

Working with GSM technology partner Zynetix, Globe Wireless says that this system will provide inexpensive calling rates for GSM users onboard the vessel through its purpose-built hardware and network solution.

Frank Coles, president and CEO of Globe Wireless, said: "The solution is the result of extensive research and many months of work and significant innovation. The result is a solution that provides a flexible, high quality service. It is designed by mariners for mariners and thus is inexpensive and fits their needs."

"Using smart technology developed by Globe Wireless and Zynetix on the vessel, as well as shore, we have reduced bandwidth and costs. We offer free mobile to mobile calling on the same vessel, not something we have seen anywhere else."

"With the downturn in markets and the economic squeeze that is being felt globally we needed to release a product that would be inexpensive to install for the owner and low cost calling for the crew."

Ian Taylor, CEO and co-founder of Zynetix, added: "GlobeMobile truly represents the next generation of GSM-at-sea services. We're proud to partner with Globe Wireless and believe the introduction of GlobeMobile will move GSM-at-sea from an expensive niche service to a mainstream service that many more mariners can benefit from."