

Globe Wireless releases new Rydex version

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Globe Wireless has launched a new version of its Rydex ship/shore satellite communications software, which is to be branded as GlobeRydex.

The new software, the eighth version of Rydex, can be operated either through a Public Hub environment (a service where ships connect to a Globe Wireless shore-side hub) or a Private Hub configuration (where the shoreside server is kept and maintained at the user's premises).

"In past years Rydex has seen only minimal software updates. It was in need of enhancements and maintenance," said Shane Rossbacher, vice president of product management with Globe Wireless.

"Since Globe Wireless acquired SeaWave & Rydex, we have undertaken significant effort to improve the Rydex system."

"The first phase of improvements addressed the Public Hub infrastructure. The hardware, network connections, internet gateway have all been upgraded, replaced, or improved to increase performance and stability. We have also implemented automated network monitoring through our 24x7 Network Operations department."

The new version of Rydex includes a number of software fixes, as well as a range of new features such as improved

compression using 7ZIP; extended support for Fleet, FleetBroadband, and Iridium OpenPort; message-level split billing for satellite airtime; interactive vector weather charts in 3, 5 and 10-day forecasts; ship-board virus protection; and forms support, including US Coast Guard eNOAD, Ballast Water and ISM templates.

Frank J Coles, president and CEO of Globe Wireless, added: "Globe Wireless fully intends to support the Rydex product, continuing to improve and enhance it into the future."

"This release is a culmination of a significant amount of research and development of the product from that which we inherited from SeaWave and Inmarsat. We are committed to servicing our loyal Rydex Public and Private Hub users, and we also plan to offer Rydex to new customers. Customers can look forward to future software releases with additional advanced enhancements."

In other news, Globe Wireless says that it is currently in final testing with Iridium on the satellite company's OpenPort platform, in advance of making the product commercially available to customers.

The testing programme includes all aspects of the service and associated hardware and software, with the hardware undergoing extensive field testing. The

service and the various service speeds are being rated under load, using the Globe Wireless range of e-mail services and applications.

"We are prepared for a large release of the OpenPort, but before we do so we want to make sure the product meets our satisfaction so that our customers are not disappointed," said Mr Coles. "With a large expectation it is important that the service is tested to the fullest."

Preparations are also underway to ensure that the Iridium billing system is set up for the new pricing plans, and the systems can effectively bill the new service.

Globe Wireless says it is "well advanced" in its preparations of a secure pipe for customers who want to be able to control the amount of traffic and browsing allowed over the connection.

Dino Martins, vice president operations at Globe Wireless, added: "We are prepared for an extensive roll out of this new service. With over 300 ship visits a month with our own employees, we will want to



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ensure we can deliver a rapid, high quality install of the new hardware."

"Globe has a large back log of orders, and we will be ensuring the rapid deployment of the service to ensure no customer goes too long without their OpenPort."