

Digital Ship

News

Globe Wireless and Intelsat launch VSAT service

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Globe Wireless and Intelsat have jointly announced the launch of a new regional Ku-band VSAT service over a reduced-sized antenna, to be called GlobeSwift Mini-Ku.

The GlobeSwift Mini-Ku service utilises a 60cm Ku-band antenna, and is intended to provide 'always on' internet service to yachts and commercial ships sailing in coastal US and Caribbean waters.

The Mini-Ku service uses Intelsat satellites and earth stations, while Globe Wireless will be the main distribution partner.

The service has recently completed beta testing aboard two Nekton dive charter vessels, the Nekton Rorqual and Nekton Pilot, which take up to 30 passengers for dive vacations. Passengers during the trials they had access to the internet, e-mail, and voice calling services.

Globe Wireless says that the system will be aimed at commercial ships in coastal US trade, and also the oil and gas industry operating in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the leisure market.

Frank Coles, president and CEO of Globe Wireless, commented: "We can now offer customers a 2.4m C-Band, 1m Ku-band, and now a 60cm Mini-Ku VSAT service. Combine this with the Globe i4, which uses traditional Inmarsat or Iridium as a backup for VSAT, and we now have the best and most complete maritime VSAT solution in the market today."

Intelsat and Globe Wireless say they have plans to expand the service into other areas of the world in the future, targeting the Mediterranean, Europe and Asia.

"Our customers can look forward to expanded coverage for the GlobeSwift Mini-Ku service," said Mr Coles.

"However, unlike our competitors, we prefer to make sure that the service is ready and available before making announcements and publishing misleading coverage maps."