

Globe Wireless launches crew calling card

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Ship-shore communications company Globe Wireless has launched a crew e-mail prepaid card.

Seafarers can buy the card as prepayment for sending e-mail messages over the Globe Wireless digital high frequency radio communications system. The card will be distributed through shipowners, managers, crewing agencies and other related companies.

E-mails sent using the card will be priced at 9¢ (US) per quarter kilobit (about 31 characters), compared to 22¢ which, Globe Wireless say, is a normal

charge per kilobit for data sent over Inmarsat-C.

Various different pricing plans are available for seafarer terminals; shipping companies can either receive the installation and equipment free of charge in return for monthly charges and long term contracts, or they can pay the equipment upfront and make no usage commitment.

Globe Wireless comments that it is currently signing up around 90 new vessels a month to use its radio communications service, which is fitted on over 3,000 vessels in total. It recently opened new offices in Hong Kong and Hamburg.

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