



P R E S S R E L E A S E

TORM IS THE FIRST MAJOR DANISH SHIPPING COMPANY TO EQUIP ALL VESSELS WITH WIRELESS INTERNET

Torm has signed an agreement with Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. (SingTel) to provide wireless Internet connection on TORM's entire fleet of vessels. With this agreement, TORM will be the first Danish shipping company to equip all its vessels with globally available wireless Internet – primarily for the benefit of the seafarers on board.

Hellerup, 19 November 2008 – Over the course of the next three to five years, SingTel's Global Maritime Very Small Aperture Terminal (GMVSAT) will be installed on all vessels owned by TORM. GMVSAT will provide the vessels with seamless, worldwide coverage because the system automatically switches between satellites without affecting access to or the stability of the on-board Internet connection.

This solution will allow TORM to implement traditional office systems such as e-mail, intranet and Internet on board the vessels. It also opens up for telephone communications over the Internet (VoIP), which provides the same functionality as normal, land-based telephones.

Other than increasing the efficiency of communications between head office and vessels and thus the efficiency of vessel operations, the main incentive to invest in wireless Internet for the entire fleet was the obvious advantages this has for seafaring employees, who are usually apart from their families for months at a time.

"It will be far easier for the seafarers to stay in contact with their families and friends on land. In addition to e-mailing and chatting, they will in the longer term be able to see each other via webcam, which will make it far easier to stay in touch with life at home. They can even maintain their Facebook profiles and check the news," says Claus Usen Jensen, Executive Vice President of TORM's Technical Division.

An additional bonus of the solution is that it enhances the safety of the seafarers, who make up some 85% of TORM's approximately 3,500 employees. In an emergency, the entire bandwidth can be allocated to one vessel, for example making it possible to follow events on board via a camera in case of fire or an accident.

"Overall, this solution provides a broad range of improved means of communication and cooperation between office and vessel, amongst vessels and – most importantly – between the seafarers and their families. It will also give us operational advantages in that many day-to-day problems can be solved directly on board by means of Internet access", explains Claus Usen Jensen.

Initially, the wireless Internet connection on board vessels will have speeds of 256 kbps. In the longer term, the connection speeds are likely to increase.



SingTel's GMVSAT installation has been tested on board several TORM vessels, and the solution has had a positive impact on the lives of the crew.

"A permanent Internet connection allows you to keep in far closer contact with family and friends at home. The ability to surf on the Internet is also very popular. Being far away at sea no longer gives us the same sense of isolation," concludes Claus Larsen, Captain of TORM Vita.

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