

Digital Ship

www.thedigitalship.com

UK Royal Navy to use ECDIS

www.kelvinhughes.com

The UK Royal Navy and UK Royal Fleet Auxiliary has decided to use electronic charts for ship navigation, using technology provided by a consortium of Kelvin Hughes, Lockheed Martin (support), Offshore Systems Ltd (software) and Babcock Design and Technology (installation) in a contract worth GBP 29m, including design, manufacture and support.

48 major ships will initially be fitted with WECDIS, including the Invincible class aircraft carriers, all Royal Navy submarines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary tankers. The first system will be fitted to a Type 23 frigate in mid-2004.

It will use the Kelvin Hughes Navigation and Tactical Display WECDIS (Warship Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems) equipment, using the Offshore Systems ECPINS-M (Electronic Chart

Precise Integrated Navigation System - Military) software. Delivery of the systems to the Royal Navy fleet will start in mid 2004.

The Offshore Systems ECPINS-M software is also used by the navies of Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia and the United



The Lockheed Martin / Kelvin Hughes / Offshore Systems / Babcock electronic chart system for the British navy

Kingdom, as well as segments of the United States Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, Canadian Coast Guard.

According to the Royal Navy, using the system will "enhance situational awareness, greatly increase navi-

gational accuracy and improve ships' safety." The system is expected to bring to an end paper charts. On WECDIS the electronic charts can have overlays covering prohibited areas of minefields, beach profiles for amphibious landings and dived navigation facilities for submarines.

The technology for each ship will be composed of two operator control stations together with a laptop and remote station for route planning.

"Electronic charting is a vital requirement for our Fleet and WECDIS is a world-class system," said UK Defence Procurement Minister, Lord Bach.

The development has interesting implications for

the UK Hydrographic Office, originally established to serve the British Royal Navy; if the British Navy is using official UKHO electronic charts, then why are they still not available for the commercial sector?

The US Military already uses electronic charts and has a worldwide electronic chart series called "Digital Nautical Charts" supplied by the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; comprehensive information about them is online at www.nima.mil/dncpublic/.

According to NIMA they fully meet ECDIS standards apart from the "underlying data transfer format". However these charts are not available to commercial shipping, thought to be due to issues related to chart royalties.

A spokesperson from the UK Ministry of Defence confirmed that the British Navy would continue to receive its electronic charts from the UKHO.

Digital Ship Scandinavia
In association with the Association of Maritime Managers of ICT (AMMITEC)
April 29-30, 2003, SAS Radisson Oslo Airport

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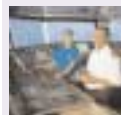


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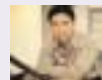


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Boeing gets into maritime communications

www.connexionbyboeing.com

Connexion by Boeing, part of aeroplane manufacturer Boeing, is now offering high speed satellite broadband communications for the maritime industry.

The Connexion service

was originally developed for the aviation market, and will be supplied to Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) and Japan Airlines on their long haul aircraft from early 2004. It has also been demonstrated to British Airways, and All-Nippon

Airways, Singapore Airlines and China Airlines have announced their intent to install the Connexion by Boeing service on their long-range aircraft.

Boeing says that it sees services to the maritime industry as a "natural

complement" to its commercial airline service. The maritime solution uses the existing satellite and ground-based network Connexion by Boeing has established and will bring the same capabilities for, it says, "robust, high-speed connectivity to the mar-

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NEWS

Digital Ship

Vol 4 No 4

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DIGITAL SHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS
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itime industry.
It will use satellite networks which provide coverage in the North Atlantic and a solution for Pacific Ocean coverage will be announced in the very near future.

"We're actively engaged in discussions with several of the leading maritime operators, as well as potential distributors, and have received a tremendously positive response to our service and the speeds at which we can move data," said Connexion by Boeing President Scott Carson.

"Operators of vessels around the world have the immediate need to stay connected, allowing a more informed and efficient oper-

ation, no matter where they are in the world -- close to shore or in the shipping lanes across the Pacific and other oceanic regions."

Connexion by Boeing has successfully tested real-time data communication and a live, high-quality video teleconferencing from a private vessel in Seattle's Lake Union to its Seattle campus.

The Connexion by Boeing maritime solution is expected to be approximately ten times faster than most commonly deployed communications systems available today, and "significantly" less expensive to use, although more details on system and service pricing will

only be announced closer to service launch.

Seafarers and ship passengers will be able to access the internet and receive e-mails using the service, as well as view satellite television programming.

Boeing says the service "will also enhance ship-to-shore communications for ship captains and crew - provide new opportunities for long-distance learning, improve crew morale, remote monitoring of ships' systems and cargo, improved maintenance, and to make better routing decisions. All of these capabilities are expected to significantly improve the efficiency and safety of operations at sea."

Teledata opens Singapore office

www.teledata-usa.com

Indian-based Teledata has opened a Singapore office for software development and after sales support to its Asian clients. Teledata's marine products include ShipManager, RepairNet, Port Operations Management System, the Web-based Fleet Monitoring System and Shipstaff.com

It is developing a Port-Manager system to focus on all facets of port operations in response to the need for heightened security in the port environment.

SIS in European top 500

www.sismarine.com/

Star Information Systems has been ranked as one of the 500 fastest-growing technology companies in Europe by Deloitte European Technology Fast 500.

ABS launch SafeHull Express

www.eagle.org

A new version of shipmanagement software SafeHull was launched by ABS at the Marintec China maritime exhibition and conference in Shanghai. SafeHull Express automates some procedures and brings 3D modeling into the early stages of the design process, thereby helping to predict costs.

SafeHull Express aims to reduce the time it takes to compete design evaluations with several time saving features. Included in these is an intuitive workflow menu, leading the user through the design process, templates to generate geometry of the hull structure and scantlings of the main hull structure and automatically generated finite element models from the 3D design model.

Bringing the 3D modeling as early as possible into the design process benefits shipyards that can use the 3D CAD model to prepare bidding contracts with accurate estimates of material and construction costs. The 3D structural model can also be automatically converted to the finite element model required for strength assessment and requires no user input.

There is also an automatic report generation tool, another time saver, and an intuitive graphic user interface. A version for double hull bulk carriers will be released in the spring of 2004.

Tribon counts 200,000 products on its website

www.tribon.com

Tribon now has more than 200,000 products available to shipbuilders on its

website, Tribon.com. It also has new orders with University of Michigan, RMK Marine and ISOICO.

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Developments for BMT Rembrandt ship handling software

www.bmt.org

VShips is testing British Maritime Technology (BMT) Rembrandt 4 beta version at one of its training centres in the UK prior to the upcoming release of the software. The PC-based ship handling simulation and training software includes 3D and ECDIS style displays and features accurate mathematical ship models.

The testing is the last phase of an 18 month consultation process that has resulted in the enhancements to the new version. VShips, the world's largest trainer of seafaring staff, already uses previous Rembrandt versions, and has integrated Rembrandt into its junior and senior officer training programmes.

Meanwhile BMT has installed its PC-based ship maneuvering simulation

software onboard the Queen Mary 2 and linked it with the vessels dynamic positioning (DP) system. This is the first time such a direct linked has been accomplished and will provide onboard ship specific maneuvering training for its crew.

The simulator was linked with an Alstom A-series DP system combining its dynamic positioning algorithms designed specifically for the QM2 with the Rembrandt mathematical model, charts and 3D visualizations.

The system is currently being used in the shipyard and will be integrated into the bridge upon delivery of the vessel. It will be used for crew training in maneuvering the vessel both with and without the DP system. The ability to train onboard the vessel, at a port of call, is another significant advantage.

AVECS increases sales 50 per cent in 2003

www.avecs.de

Maritime software company AVECS reports that 2003 was its most successful year ever with a 50 per cent increase in sales volume. In particular, there were many new customers from the Mediterranean region and Asian Pacific.

"The basics for the worldwide success of the

AVECS solutions are the complexity of the software systems and the permanent updated portfolio," the company claims.

A "significant" part of the growth was in sales of voyage data recorders, through subsidiary AVECS Bergen.

The company also expects business to grow substantially in the newbuild market.

ShipyardXchange and IMI finalise integration

www.shipyardxchange.com

Online shipbuilding parts procurement portal Shipyardxchange has integrated with online ship supplier database IMI to allow purchases using the online trading portal to view details of marine suppliers in the IMI marine purchasing directories and

databases.

When sourcing a product, IMI registered suppliers will be visible to the purchases, helping to facilitate the transaction.

The large databases are continuously updated and are expected to be integrated into Shipyardxchange's December 2003 product update.

Globalstar introduces Europe-wide flat rate calling

http://www.globalstar.com

Maritime satellite communications company Globalstar has introduced a new flat rate Pan-European calling tariff that eliminates the complicated and expensive roaming and international surcharge fees.

The new tariff is available for calls to and from

any two points in Europe and some parts of North Africa, apart from Russia and Turkey. The recommended price is US \$0.99 per minute (excl. VAT).

The standard European pricing plan, through which calls are charged at a cheaper \$0.70 per minute but only when in a limited number of West-

ern European countries, is still available. The new tariff is seen as an optional alternative and both price plans still allow calls to be made from 120 countries worldwide.

The coverage area for the Pan-European tariff includes maritime and land regions of 48 European countries and three African

nations - Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Calls to or from regions outside of this home service area incur international call and roaming surcharges.

Globalstar markets a dual function handset that can be used to access both satellite and terrestrial GSM services using the same telephone number.

Inmarsat in bid for Galileo

www.inmarsat.com

Inmarsat Ventures plc, EADS Space and the Thales Group have formed a consortium to enter a joint tender to operate Galileo, the proposed European Union satellite navigation similar to GPS.

The Galileo operator will lead the arrangement of private funding for the deployment and operational phases of the project, and ultimately run the system. The bid is in response to the first call for pre-selection of tenders.

The three companies are market leaders in their respective areas: satellite communication, naviga-

tion and aerospace. EADS has experience with other large public private partnership (PPP) schemes including the European space programme, while Thales is a global provider of electronics to the aerospace and defense industries.

The Galileo programme is an important advance for Europe, being the first European project with global significance and the first PPP with a multinational reach. The concession will provide many benefits for the successful party, serving a wide range of potential customers and providing global service.

Fleet 33 upgraded for speed

www.inmarsat.com

Inmarsat has upgraded its Fleet 33 technology, automatically compressing all data which goes through the system by up to 7 times.

This upgrade is available to all Fleet 33 users without the need for any change in existing hardware or additional software and at no extra

charge. The enhancement is completely transparent (invisible) to the user and will give effective data rates of 40 kbit/s and above.

This should make internet access speed will be comparable to that experienced on land using a standard modem, although compression rates will be dependent on the type of data being sent.

UKHO's North Sea sailing directions come with free CD-ROM

www.ukho.gov.uk

The North Sea Admiralty Sailing Directions is now being supplied on a CD-ROM as well as a printed copy from the UKHO. The Sailing Directions cover the North Sea between the UK and Norway, intended to provide useful information to seafarers for safe navigational planning and execution.

The CD version includes additional photographs and hyperlinks for easier navigation around the contents. Port and waterway information, small harbour anchorages and facilities have their own sections.

Transas ARPA simulator installed in Cyprus University

www.transas.com

Transas has installed a Navi-Trainer Professional 3000 ARPA simulation system at Yacin Dogu Universitesi (Near East University, Northern Cyprus), which possesses one of the largest maritime training facilities in the Middle East Area.

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