

THALES UNVEILS WAVELINK AT IEC TELECOM STAND DURING EUROPORT 2025

Co-pilot at sea will offer GMDSS, LRIT, SSAS and more

Rotterdam, Netherlands – November 4th, 2025 — Maritime safety regulations have evolved rapidly over the past decade, with new IMO and EU directives pushing for modern, always-on communication capabilities on board. As vessel traffic grows and global shipping routes become more complex, reliable distress and safety communication is no longer optional but a mandatory pillar of responsible vessel management. According to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) remains the backbone of global search-and-rescue coordination, ensuring that no ship in distress can disappear without a trace. Meanwhile, the broader maritime safety-systems market in Europe is projected to more than double from roughly **US \$9.4 billion in 2024 to nearly US \$19.8 billion by 2035**, according to Market Research Future, reflecting surging investment as operators upgrade ageing systems and embrace satellite-based technologies.

In support of the demand and prioritization of global maritime safety, Thales Defense & Security, Inc. is excited to introduce WaveLINK, a next-generation GMDSS solution that's powered by Iridium Certus and developed in collaboration with North Invent, who added the design and processing for the WaveLINK panel. Set to occur at the IEC Telecom stand during Europort 2025, Thales Defense & Security, Inc. has announced the advanced prototype unveiling for the highly anticipated WaveLINK. The introduction of WaveLINK marks a milestone in maritime communications, combining full GMDSS functionality with a flexible design that complements existing Certus terminals already in service across the global fleet.

Going beyond mandatory GMDSS features, including distress alerting, safety voice and maritime safety information (MSI), long-range identification and tracking (LRIT), and the ship security alert system (SSAS), WaveLINK provides truly global coverage via the global Iridium Certus network. Additionally, the system is equipped with OpenBridge front-end software, ensuring intuitive operation and seamless integration for vessel owners already familiar with the platform.

Unlike conventional safety terminals that remain idle until an emergency occurs, WaveLINK actively supports daily operations while remaining ready for critical response. It goes beyond core GMDSS functions by enabling a range of industry-specific applications, such as fish-catch reporting and search-and-rescue coordination, already in the pipeline for the near future, as well as an unlimited range of tailor-made integrations upon request.

"Our goal was to reimagine GMDSS equipment as more than an emergency lifeline," said **Steve Noel, VP Satcom Solutions of Thales Defense & Security, Inc.** "WaveLINK is scalable by design and ready to host digital services across Iridium's reliable network. By combining safety, connectivity, and intelligence within one platform, we are transforming the mostly dormant GMDSS terminal into a true co-pilot at sea."

The advanced prototype unveiling highlights the strong partnership between **Thales Defense & Security, Inc.** and **IEC Telecom**. Commenting on the collaboration, **Alf Stian Mauritz, Group Chief Strategy Officer of IEC Telecom Group**, stated:

"The addition of WaveLINK aligns perfectly with our service-driven portfolio. IEC Telecom specialises in comprehensive communication systems designed to go beyond core functionality and bring tangible value on board. As a long-standing partner of Thales, we are excited to be the first service provider to unveil this new solution to the market."

In addition to its expanded capabilities, WaveLINK removes key barriers to adoption. The terminal is priced competitively against traditional GMDSS equipment, significantly increasing value for fleet owners. Furthermore,

owners of the popular VesseLINK solution can expect a seamless upgrade as the simple addition of a WaveLINK panel will transform existing VesseLINK systems into a fully GMDSS-certified terminal without additional satellite hardware.

The unveiling at Europort 2025 marks the first step in WaveLINK's global rollout, with full commercial availability expected in mid-2026. Live demonstrations at the IEC Telecom stand will showcase how this innovative terminal unites safety, efficiency, and affordability — setting a new benchmark for digital-ready GMDSS at sea.

About IEC Telecom Group

IEC Telecom Group is an international satellite service operator with nearly three decades of engineering expertise in voice and data communications. Its portfolio encompasses a comprehensive range of satellite products, LEO/GEO/LTE solutions, and value-added services. The Group's mission is to advance digitalisation at sea across all vessel types. Backed by an in-house network engineering team, IEC Telecom designs bespoke connectivity solutions for projects of any scale or complexity. The Group has regional offices in eight countries: France (headquarters), Norway, Sweden, Turkey, the UAE, Kazakhstan, Singapore and Indonesia. With global stock management capabilities, the company ensures timely delivery worldwide.

For more information, visit iec-telecom.com.

About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global leader in advanced technologies specialized in three business domains: Defence, Aerospace and Cyber & Digital. It develops products and solutions that help make the world safer, greener and more inclusive. The Group invests close to €4 billion a year in Research & Development, particularly in key innovation areas such as AI, cybersecurity, quantum technologies, cloud technologies and 6G. Thales has close to 81,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2023, the Group generated sales of €18.4 billion.

About Thales in the U.S.

In the United States, Thales has conducted significant research and development, manufacturing, and service capabilities for more than 130 years. Today, Thales has 37 locations around the U.S., employing nearly 5,000 people. Working closely with customers and local partners, Thales is able to meet the most complex requirements for every operating environment.