



## Get onboard with digitalization to reap the benefits

Singapore, 10 October, 2019: The digital transformation train is leaving the station and maritime companies need to get onboard now or risk missing the trip!

“Digitalization brings great benefits and has the potential to create greater equality in the world”, said Nabil Ben Soussia, IEC Telecom’s Vice-President Maritime. “The reality is that the train is leaving the station and individuals and organisations need to get on board quickly,” he advised.

“For the maritime sector, the march of digitalization offers the opportunity for greater efficiency, substantial cost savings, optimization of vessel processes, and vastly improved communications between ship and shore, as well as for crew members,” he enthused, highlighting the benefits of connectivity across the globe.

Measures like being able to access the vessel management system remotely enable improved vessel and performance monitoring as well as more efficient maintenance regimes – saving time, money, and helping to meet environmental and other targets.

There are challenges to be overcome when digitalizing vessel operations, he agreed, speaking at Digital Ship’s CIO forum in Singapore. A stable and reliable connection is essential, as are robust back-up systems. IEC Telecom is one of the leading providers of connectivity solutions to the maritime sector and Mr Ben Soussia is able to draw on the company’s many years of expertise when advising the shipping industry.

Highlighting the risks to vessels from cyber threats, he stressed the need for comprehensive and effective cyber security to be built into any digitalized systems, both onboard and ashore. “The more autonomous vessels are, the higher the risk is of a cyber-attack and the greater the impact of that attack could be,” he said, pointing out that the majority of cyber threats can be eliminated with the proper security processes in place.

One of the downsides to this rapid pace of development is that maritime regulation needs to move faster in order to remain relevant and not inhibit technological advancement. The rapid rise of new technologies requires a new set of global rules to manage operations and potential risks, Mr Ben Soussia warned. Shipping is a highly regulated international market but the process of introducing new regulations or amending existing ones takes many years and this speed needs to increase in order to keep up with the pace of change.

But the commitment is worth it. Smart ships, smart crew, smart operating procedures – these are the future, thanks to digitalization.



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## **Notes To Editors:**

### **IEC Telecom**

IEC Telecom Group is one of the leading global providers of managed network communication solutions. Known for supplying high quality satellite-based technology to customers for more than 20 years, IEC Telecom delivers efficient end-to-end voice and data services, when and where it matters most.

Our portfolio includes a wide range of satellite products (from handset to VSAT services), solutions and value-added services. IEC Telecom's integrated approach of in-house design and engineering expertise allows us to develop truly unique solutions enabling full control over your satellite assets.

IEC Telecom is an experienced provider of services to the maritime sector, offering communications solutions for all vessel types from shipping to offshore, fishing to leisure boats. The company has 10 offices across 9 countries: Denmark, France (two offices), Kazakhstan, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Turkey, UAE (two offices), and UK. For more information see the website: [www.iec-telecom.com](http://www.iec-telecom.com)

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