

Satellite services provide additional safety options

Maritime safety has been boosted following the recognition of Iridium's satellite service as a provider for the international global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS), giving ship operators more options when protecting vessels and crew.

The recent approval from IMO and SOLAS means there are now two certified providers of GMDSS satellite services, ending Inmarsat's previous 20-year monopoly of this sector and giving greater choice for vessel operators.

Welcoming the move, Alf Stian Mauritz, MD of IEC Telecom Norway, said: "Iridium GMDSS now provides a real alternative to Inm-C, offering satellite-based maritime distress services with truly global coverage. This is an excellent development for the whole maritime industry because it gives vessel operators the opportunity to install a greater selection of equipment to meet their exact requirements."

Satellite communications specialist IEC Telecom supplies a range of maritime safety systems and equipment, including the Lars Thrane LT-3100S GMDSS System which provides global GMDSS coverage, a distress alert and safety voice system, maritime safety information (MSI) and ship security alert system (SSAS). In addition, the LT-3100S supports bridge alert management and external alarm panels and offers long range identification and tracking (IRIT), voice, SMS, SBD and modem data – all via a single antenna cable solution with high-



▲ *Alf Stian Mauritz, MD of IEC Telecom Norway*

performance GNSS/GPS receiver.

GMDSS is an internationally agreed upon set of safety procedures, types of equipment, and communication protocols used to increase safety and make it easier to rescue distressed ships, boats and aircraft.

IEC Telecom is especially looking forward to introducing its 'Safety at Sea' range, which includes products from ACR, Ocean Signal, Scanstrut, Shakespeare, Pepwave and Fire Suppression Systems. Supported by IEC Telecom's global satellite communications solutions, vessel and personal safety are enhanced by reliable connectivity and coverage while costs are kept low thanks to a selection of flexible tariffs and hardware to fit all budgets.