

IEC Telecom pioneers advanced network management

IEC Telecom is helping vessel operators maintain reliable, secure and efficient digital operations at sea

Over the past decade, the UAE has solidified its position as a global maritime hub through bold infrastructure development and forward-looking digital policies. While digitalisation in ports is largely supported by terrestrial LTE networks, the modernisation of marine operations hinges on access to high-speed satellite connectivity.

Next-generation Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite operators now offer broadband speeds comparable to GSM networks. For example, according to the Starlink annual performance report, more than 75,000 vessels were connected to its LEO network as of 2024. However, managing connectivity at sea remains a complex challenge. This is particularly true for GCC, where many countries restrict access to high-speed new generation networks in the

territorial waters, as such shipping companies typically operate in multi-network environment, relying on licensed GEO operators within national borders and LEO for international routes.

Navigating complexity

IEC Telecom supports vessel operators in navigating this complexity with OptiView, a cutting-edge network management platform designed to optimise performance across all satellite services in use. The system provides real-time visibility into key network metrics, including uplink and downlink speeds, latency and signal quality.

These insights enable IT teams to identify bottlenecks and fine-tune remote configurations for optimal performance. Additionally, the built-in credit management module allows operators to customise

consumption thresholds and set usage alerts, helping to prevent overuse and ensure cost control.

Earlier this year, IEC Telecom introduced an enhanced version of OptiView, featuring a centralised crew voucher system alongside a comprehensive suite of on-demand cybersecurity tools.

"Beyond traditional network management, the new OptiView enables seamless provisioning of crew welfare while addressing the rising threat of cyberattacks," explained Nabil Ben Soussia, Group CCO at IEC Telecom.

As the maritime workforce evolves, broadband access is no longer a luxury. It has become a decisive factor in crew attraction and retention. OptiView empowers vessel operators to implement structured welfare programmes that keep seafarers connected, while ensuring cost-efficient use of onboard connectivity. This is achieved through differentiated browsing protocols for LEO and GEO networks: data-heavy activities, such as video streaming and e-learning, are permitted in a high-bandwidth environment, whereas in a low-bandwidth setting, usage is limited to essential communications like messaging and emails.

"The more connected the vessel, the



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Nabil Ben Soussia, Group CCO at IEC Telecom

greater the exposure to cyber threats,” noted Nabil Ben Soussia. As such, cybersecurity remains a top priority in maritime communications. OptiView addresses this challenge on multiple levels. Network segregation is enabled by default, helping to reduce the risk of cross-contamination – where mission-critical systems could be compromised by threats originating from the crew network due to the misuse of personal devices. For enhanced protection, an optional cybersecurity layer provides real-time vulnerability monitoring, dynamic filtration controls and detailed reporting, enabling IT teams to detect threats, enforce policies, and maintain full oversight of onboard digital activity.

As the maritime sector accelerates its digital transformation, platforms like OptiView play a critical role in aligning innovation with operational integrity while maximising user experience in a hybrid network environment.

“By enabling secure and efficient satellite connectivity, IEC Telecom continues to redefine the frontiers of maritime communications across the Middle East and beyond,” Ben Soussia adds. ✨



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