

Title: Space Newsfeed  
Date: May 2008  
Frequency: Updated daily  
Page views: 50,000 per month



## NSSL Innovation Maximises Maritime Satellite Broadband Connectivity

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*(1 May 2008) NSSL, the international satellite communications service provider, has developed an innovative new solution designed to maximise broadband connectivity at sea.*

Many vessels, like super yachts and oil rigs, often have large superstructures such as masts, which disrupt line of sight with the satellite, causing a loss in connectivity while the vessel changes its heading or turns around. To rectify this problem, NSSL has designed a fully automatic, dual antenna selector that offers the coverage of two antennas on a single airtime package.

CruiseIP is a non Inmarsat, non VSAT broadband maritime solution. Established in 2005, CruiseIP provides a high speed, high quality broadband communications solution to maritime users. Originally covering only a small part of the world's oceans the service now covers the waters of the USA, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and most of Asia Pacific.

The dual antenna selector box, designed by NSSL, maximises the airtime of the CruiseIP broadband service by supporting the use of two antennas, and switching automatically between the two as required. This solution negates the temporary loss of connectivity caused by vessel orientation and blind arcs created by the vessel's superstructure. The dual antenna selector automatically switches the DVBS2-RCS satellite modem to the best antenna giving the user constant connectivity without interruptions.

Andrew Sirkett, CruiseIP Product Manager at NSSL commented: "One of the concerns about satellite maritime broadband is that because it requires line of sight it is vulnerable to disruption. This 'downtime' may be small and sometimes last only a few seconds, but if, like many of our users, you have significant mainland interests which require attention at a moments notice this can be serious issue." He went on to say: "The dual antenna selector counteracts this problem, automatically switching to the antenna with best coverage, ensuring an uninterrupted connection and constant reliability for the user."