

Title: Total Telecom online
Date: January 2006
Frequency: Updated daily
Circulation: 105,000 unique users per month



Industry News 

NSSL, STM partner NSSL

05 January 2007

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NSSL, London: International satcoms service provider NSSL is to launch its own DVB-RCS Gateways in Florida and California in early 2007. The new Gateway will extend coverage for NSSL's Cruise-IP service, targeting US, Caribbean Mediterranean and Pacific routes. Bob Chewter, Managing Director of NSSL said, "This is a very exciting financial investment for NSSL that will give us a greater independent capacity and offer our Cruise-IP clients extended coverage, better services and guaranteed network reliability under our own control."

NSSL is partnering with STM Norway, a subsidiary of STM Group, which specialises in designing, manufacturing, and installing DVB-RCS VSAT Gateways. Under the terms of the agreement, STM will deliver, install and support DVB-RCS hubs on the east and west coasts of the United States, providing coverage of the marine routes frequented by ships in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, US and Pacific waters.

Bob Chewter, Managing Director of NSSL said, "We have chosen STM as our maritime VSAT partner because of their commitment to DVB-RCS technology enhancements with emphasis on new services tailored for the maritime user". From 1st April 2007 NSSL's customers will be able to benefit from STM's latest DVB-RCS technology including DVB-S2 forward channels resulting in extended coverage and throughput improvements as well as QoS (Quality of Service) on customer specific applications such as video conferencing. STM's Maritime SatLink modem which is an integral part of NSSL's Cruise-IP service will also have additional features added for marine applications with a number of unique services including automatic beam switching during transition from one satellite coverage area to another. This allows ships travelling within any satellite coverage area covered by DVB-RCS hubs to automatically obtain service as they leave one area and enter another. NSSL will also be utilizing STM's telephony experience by installing a STM voice gateway at the Hubs which will provide US toll quality voice services for its customers.

"Our continuous innovation has made our standards-based VSAT products ideal for maritime applications requiring continuous broadband and voice connectivity", said Bjørn Platou, General manager of STM Norway. "We are proud of our enhanced partnership with NSSL which will result in expanding use of maritime VSATs across all marine sectors." In addition to automatic beam switching, NSSL's partnership with STM will ensure that NSSL's Cruise-IP units comes with an integrated GPS interface, external transmit inhibit switch and enhanced web interface functions to simplify antenna pointing.

This move positions NSSL as the only maritime satellite communications provider to offer its customers such an extended Broadband coverage area alongside end-to-end DVB-RCS services, encompassing vessel hardware, installation, voice & broadband airtime packages, network support and world-wide maintenance. Bob Chewter, Managing Director of NSSL finished by saying, "This large investment means that NSSL clients using its maritime Cruise-IP services can be assured of one point of responsibility across the whole network offering clients greater reliability and guaranteed service quality."