

Quicker and cheaper emails to ships

Station 12 cuts the HTML overhead

QUICKER email messaging is being offered by Station 12 with the introduction of its uprated SAT.400 service. This is now available to provide users with a direct link between the Internet and the digital Inmarsat-C network and enables users to send, receive and amend email messages and attachments.

Internet subscribers can now communicate with vessels via Inmarsat-C by using their standard office or home email software. Announcing the service, Station 12 marketing manager Michiel Struijk said; "the great advantage of SAT.400 is that information is sent end-to-end in electronic format and, unlike telex or fax, is directly available for further processing." Station 12 calculates that the improved service will benefit users with cost savings of up to 30 per cent.

The SAT.400 service can now handle five-bit mode messaging for mobile-to-fixed users and can, for the first time, work with HTML format emails to provide useful cost savings. DataReporting and FleetNet features are also available which make the system suitable for use with vessel tracking systems. Position and status reports can be relayed automatically via SAT.400 so that they are received via the Internet in a useable email format.

Rudd Engelberts, the SAT.400 product manager, told *Solutions* how the system makes it possible for users to enjoy the benefits of conventional email. "Emails are converted into Inmarsat-C format before being forwarded to the recipient. This includes stripping the HTML overhead from the email. Not all customers know that the

HTML overhead is useless data that costs a lot to send", he said. By using the 32-character telex alphabet the system is able to use five-bit format while retaining the same quality.

Rapid data expansion

Thirty five per cent of Inmarsat-C communications are handled by Station 12 and the company sees the new SAT.400 service as a further move towards supporting the rapid expansion of text and data satellite communications.

The Mumbai-based Great Eastern Shipping Company is among the first to benefit from the new service. Until recently the company relied on traditional telex systems based on existing satellite networks for communication with its fleet of tankers and bulk carriers. "Before SAT.400 the company had been using the local available network for communication purposes", said Anshul Khanna from Station



Station 12 has uprated its SAT.400 service to offer a new email messaging service which provides users with a direct link between the Internet and digital Inmarsat-C

Satcom, the company that represents Station 12 in India. "This proved cost-effective and could not be integrated into the company's newly acquired email system for networking their various offices and branches," he said. **S**

K Line goes cargo tracking

A NEW Internet-based cargo tracking system has been developed by Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K Line). The system, called Global Cargo Tracking (GCT), is available across the whole of the Japanese carrier's container liner network allowing companies to find out the exact location and status of their shipments "from the time of receipt by K Line until final delivery, anywhere in the world", claims the company.

Companies in Europe can track cargo through K Line Europe's Internet home page, which can be found at www.klineurope.com. K Line says that

data exchanged between its global office terminals and depots is "updated continuously, giving shippers, forwarders and consignees real-time access to their cargo details." The system can be searched by bill of lading or container number and, says K Line, the ability to search by booking number "will be added soon."

The company says that "GCT represented a significant enhancement to customer service, permitting all parties to the shipment of goods to share the same up-to-date information on cargo status." **S**

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