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Wired Ocean unveils fixed price packages for low cost broadband service

New service makes marine communications budgets more predictable

Wired Ocean, the low cost solution to broadband internet at sea has introduced a new fixed pricing scheme, designed to enable vessels to better manage communications budgets and accurately predict shore to ship data costs based on pre-determined usage levels.

As use of broadband data increases at sea, so too does the cost to vessels. Per megabyte pricing is notoriously difficult to predict, especially when considering multiple users and large downloads which may include unplanned automatic updates to operating systems or anti virus software. Unexpected downloads could cost $1000s extra per month but with Wired Ocean's fixed pricing the cost will not fluctuate.

"By heavily reducing the cost of shore-to-ship data per megabyte Wired Ocean has already enabled vessels to maximise their communications budget," comments Victor Barendse, Managing Director of Wired Ocean. "The next step is to provide fixed pricing plans so that in addition to making broadband usage more affordable, there are no surprises in the form of unexpected, prohibitively high bills for downloaded data at the end of the month. This makes it much simpler for vessels to offer crew internet use when the cost of downloaded data is already known."

Five new fixed price plans, designated *Beaufort 1-5* have been introduced to the Wired Ocean service, ensuring that vessels can select the usage profile that best fits their needs. The plans, which are differentiated by the volume of priority data downloaded, start at less than $300 per month and gigabytes of data can be downloaded for less than $1000 per month. All fixed price plans feature a maximum shore-to-ship data rate of 500kbps, which is faster than many existing maritime broadband services.

"The new fixed price plans are also available with the cost of the S-Box, the heart of the Wired Ocean system, included. So the benefits of Wired Ocean, such as lower broadband usage costs, faster speeds and greatly enhanced management of budgets could be achieved without any capital expenditure whatsoever," says Barendse. "If a vessel doesn't already have a satellite TV antnna, the savings enabled by Wired Ocean makes fitting one a much more attractive proposition and by bringing the world to the vessel via TV or cost-effective internet Wired Ocean can help to improve operations and crew welfare at the same time."

Wired Ocean's new fixed pricing plans are available now. Visit *www.wiredocean.com* to find out how vessels and fleets can reduce costs and improve communications management through this innovative broadband solution.

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About Wired Ocean

Wired Ocean is a sophisticated marine broadband system, designed to deliver shore-to-ship data via a vessel's satellite TV antenna. This dramatically reduces incoming data costs – traditionally the largest bill for internet use at sea – making Wired Ocean ideal for crew and operational applications such as internet browsing, downloading email with attachments, obtaining electronic manuals and weather and navigation data for bridge and critical systems.

The Wired Ocean 'S-Box' connects the ship's computers or network to the Wired Ocean service and seamlessly initiates, manages and terminates all connections. A second communications system, such as GPRS, Fleet or FleetBroadband is used for the ship-to-shore data, which is managed by the S-Box, making for a seamless broadband experience. To manage communications settings the S-Box is accessed via a web style interface from any connected computer.

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