



Islander September 2011 Technology Update

Technology Considerations for Yard Refit Period

The sun is finally setting on our long, hot summer, and the seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness are about to start. Soon the gathering swallows will twitter in the skies, and sun-kissed yachts will return to their havens. Gradually, the yards will become full to the brim of yachts in refit, providing the opportunity to put the yacht back into good condition by repairing and adding new parts. Not often will you read such a poetic column about Technology...

Yes, we are about to move into the refit season in earnest. Every yacht will have a huge work list that needs to be condensed into the shortest refit period possible.

Add communications service to the standard gyro service

Apart from the main and most obvious jobs that need to be done to “repair or add new parts”, there are plenty of servicing and tuning jobs that should be added to the list. The obvious ones usually are carried out as a matter of course during any period of downtime, such as the radio survey, gyro and radar servicing. However, it is worth considering what needs to be done to “service” the new technology on-board. The most common shape that this takes is to undertake a communications and network survey on board. We call this an eAudit.

If, during your summer cruising, you have experienced any frustrations from owners and guests who have not had a good communications experience, then this is the place to start as those frustrations will only get worse and you will not be thanked for not sorting them. The knee-jerk reaction is to purchase increased bandwidth, but before doing this you should ascertain that your systems on-board are as efficient as they could be.

eAudit

An eAudit consists of:

1. Assessing on-board requirements both with guests and without guests, now and over the next two years.
2. Gaining an understanding of the expected cruising locations.
3. Analysis of all the yacht's existing communication connections for voice and data.
4. Analysis of any communications management system implemented on board.
5. Analysis of existing network, routers, switches and access points installed and the configuration.



6. A report will be generated that illustrates what the current systems installed are capable of, where there are any functional deficiencies, and where cost savings could be made. The report will make recommendations as to how to rectify any issues highlighted.

If an eAudit report is undertaken at the start of the yard period, any recommendations can be implemented during the refit period.

You may have experienced unreliability of your communication services on-board rather than just a lack of efficiency which has led to guests venting their frustration. In this case you should plan in a complete service of all the equipment on-board at which time a review can take place to identify installation weaknesses such as mast shadow or blockages. Depending on the time available, there is the option to solve any issues during the refit period.

Acquire the “knowledge” with training

During the autumn and winter period it is definitely worth considering a VSAT, sat TV or ECDIS training course to become more self-sufficient with the operation, service and support of some of the more complex equipment on-board. Training courses for both VSAT and sat TV are available in Mallorca in October and November and ECDIS at a date to be announced. (Please contact us for further information). Armed with the “knowledge”, a good set of spares and some basic test equipment you will be one step ahead of the game for the winter season and next year.

Free 505 Emergency Calling with Fleet Broadband

505 Emergency Calling is a new safety communications facility for Fleet Broadband 500, 250 and 150. It allows vessel in an emergency situation to make voice calls directly to Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) by simply calling the short code number “505”. It is a free facility provided by Inmarsat.

This facility is not compliant with the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). If your vessel is larger than 300GRT it should already be carrying equipment compliant with GMDSS. This equipment should still be used in the first instance to contact an MRCC.

Spain award LTE Spectrum

As I mentioned in a previous issue the Spanish government were planning to auction off the licences for the new LTE or 4G mobile phone rights or frequency spectrum, and not a lot of interest was being shown.

HEAD OFFICE

Palma de Mallorca, Spain

TEL +34 971 404 208

www.e3s.com

FAX +34 971 404 431

info@e3s.com



Well, in the first week of August, the big three Spanish mobile operators – Telefonica, Orange and Vodafone – secured LTE spectrum in the 800MHz and 2.6GHz bands as part of the auction and it raised EUR1.65 billion for the Spanish government!

Vodafone paid EUR518 million for 20MHz in the 800MHz band and 40MHz in the 2.6GHz band, and also plans to re-farm some of its 900MHz GSM spectrum for LTE services. Telefonica said it had won five frequency blocks in the 800MHz, 900MHz and 2.6GHz spectrum but details of its holdings, and those of Orange, were not disclosed.

Earlier in the year, Orange and TeliaSonera/Yoigo won the first round of LTE sales and, according to a *Dow Jones Newswires* article, a further round of 4G auctions is expected in the autumn which could raise a further EUR2 billion. Still not enough to fill the black hole.

e3 at Monaco Yacht Show QS89

The Show season is upon us, and once again we are preparing for the Monaco Yacht Show from 21st to 24th September. We will be there again this year in the Darse Sud air-conditioned tent. Our booth number is QS89.

We will be launching our new and exclusive eDSC v2 Data Service Controller that forms the heart of the best bandwidth management system available today. We will also be showing The Jetstream Jetset box live. Both will be controlled from an iPad or iPhone.

We will be hosting ten of our forty Partners who represent us in nine countries on our booth this year. We will also be hosting some of the most significant suppliers in the communications business including Stratos, MTN, MCP, Elektrikom and Linkscape.

So please come and stop by for a drink and a chat.

Roger Horner of e3 Systems

For further information on any of the above, please contact us.

email on info@e3s.com and website www.e3s.com

Tel: +34 971 404 208



HEAD OFFICE

Palma de Mallorca, Spain

TEL +34 971 404 208

www.e3s.com

FAX +34 971 404 431

info@e3s.com