



Islander June 2015

Technology Update

After reporting on the Apple Watch in my column last month, I was lucky enough to get my hands on one a couple of days later! One of our colleagues is a real Apple aficionado who always pre-orders the latest Apple products.

Briefly, like all Apple products, it is hugely appealing, beautifully designed and constructed. It will work simply as attractive, wearable jewellery even if you don't use the built in tech. I was intrigued that, of all the watch face options available, my colleague Ken chose the same face I have on my conventional analogue watch of white hands on a black background, and both have a black rubber strap. However, my watch is unintelligent – all it does is tell the time! My prediction is this will be a must-have product. It looks good, it attracts attention and, of course, it has all those additional features.

Palma Boat Show and Superyacht Show

In our opinion, the Show grew to another level this year, and the organisers deserve a huge round of applause. One comment made to me by the visiting Superyacht Media Group team sums it up, "You guys in Palma must be so proud, this is fantastic. It's bigger than Antibes ever got to be and much better than Genoa". In addition, various brokers from Monaco told me they had never been to Palma before, and now want to move here to live and work!

Between ETY, our booth neighbours, and ourselves we were displaying two of the most innovative products in the industry today. ETY were showing their micro-turbine generator, which created a lot of interest with a number of engineers drooling over it. We were a little concerned beforehand about the potential noise, but our fears were unfounded – it is incredibly quiet.

Thanks to last-minute cancellation of the French air-traffic controllers' strike, we managed to get the first prototype Kymeta flat panel satellite antenna onto our booth for most of the Show. This also attracted a huge amount of interest.



We ran a competition to win our e3.IPTV service for 6 months and the lucky winner was Adela Zumrova from M/Y Sia.

HEAD OFFICE

Palma de Mallorca, Spain

TEL +34 971 404 208

www.e3s.com

FAX +34 971 404 431

info@e3s.com



New broadband data communications for Superyacht Cup yachts

Our **e3.IPTV** service, which Adela won, was connected to the internet using our new **e3.Unite** 3G/4G aggregator at the Show.

This device aggregates together the bandwidth and data allowances from multiple SIM cards into one data pipe with the added benefits of having a native UK IP address, built in cyber security and no domes. It provides a high bandwidth data connection to the yacht to enable yacht wide wi-fi and also the ability to run streaming IPTV.

Inmarsat Fleet Xpress (VSAT) small, lightweight domes

For those of you who don't mind domes, we have a small dome, global VSAT solution which is close to being launched in the second half of this year. This solution is perfect for performance sailing yachts. This is the new **Inmarsat Fleet Xpress (FX)** service which is part of the Global Xpress (GX) new network of satellites.

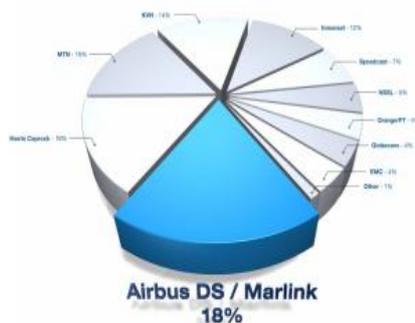
The first two satellites are launched and in place and the final satellite F3 of the new Inmarsat-5 constellation is due to be launched at the end of May.

Fleet Xpress will deliver broadband speeds up to 100 times faster than the company's fourth generation Fleet Broadband services.

With the smaller, lightweight 65cm domes this will be a perfect solution for yachts with true global itineraries venturing off the beaten track.

Airbus Defence & Space rated Number 1 in Maritime VSAT by market share in the COMSYS Maritime VSAT report.

The COMSYS report shows that Airbus have surpassed their main competitors in maritime satellite services revenue.



*Top10 = 70% of total Maritime VSAT providers revenues (table 7 of Comsys Maritime VSAT Report, 4th Edition)



They have leapt from 1,000 in 2011 to over 2,000 vessels in 2014, making them **the largest in terms of Maritime VSAT revenues** and the second largest by number of ships.

All of us at e3 and within our Group are very pleased to have contributed to their success.

BMW i3 true electric car road tested

You may have seen the BMW i8 and i3 models on display at the Palma Boat Show. BMW have kindly lent me an i3 for a week to test as a future company car and also for personal use.

My conclusion is that it really is fantastic – this is the future of motoring! It's fast, it drives well and it has the unexpected bonus that you feel really good when driving it! In fact, it's so good that I would like to re-badge it the BMW e3!



BMW started their e-car development with a clean slate by developing two cars from the ground up. They have not taken an existing model and turned it into a hybrid. Incidentally, the new models are built in a brand new factory powered totally by wind and solar power.

The batteries provide a range of approximately 120km. I say approximately, as it depends upon how you drive. The car has a regenerative braking system, so they recharge when slowing down and going down hills. There is an option for a petrol-driven Range Extender which is simply a very small generator that generates electricity to drive the electric motor. With the tiny fuel tank for this, it extends the range by another 70km. This is a “get me home” service or a “get me to the next charging station”.

The basic charging technique is to plug it into your domestic electricity socket at home and it recharges overnight. There is also a fast charge option which requires an optional fast charger which takes about 3 hours.

The first challenge when you start driving the e-car is getting used to the sound of silence! Without the familiar sound of the engine revving, it's hard to believe that you're good to go. However, put the car into “drive”, take the handbrake off, touch the accelerator gently, and off you go.

The second challenge is how to turn it off after you've parked, and to be sure that it's off. However, BMW has covered that one by ensuring that the final message on the dashboard is “Goodbye”!

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info@e3s.com



It has faster acceleration than a BMW M3, and you can find yourself exceeding the speed limit quickly. However when you take your foot off the gas the regenerative braking system kicks in as the brakes are gently applied. After a while you become competitive by trying to use as little charge as possible by recharging at all available opportunities. This is what the new “Formula e” racing is all about.

It has all the usual features and more, including aircon, electric everything, good sound system, sensors, radar and auto parking. It overlays a range on the map, tells you where the nearest charge points are, connects using 3G/4G and even has an App so you can find it, check the charge state and even put the aircon on for 5 minutes before you arrive!

The only thing that doesn't work is having to open the front door before opening the back door. Tricky when picking the kids up. Also solar panels built into the roof would make sense to trickle charge the car all day in this climate.

Great for the island and cities. It wouldn't work currently for long trips as refuelling stops are as regular as for a Bugatti Veyron, but fortunately a whole lot cheaper but a lot slower!

Financially it also makes sense with a government subsidy to help purchase and savings on road tax and, of course, fuel.

This is definitely the future of motoring.

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

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