



Islander October 2009 Technology Update

Monaco Wash Up

Only just back from the manic, Monaco Show and Peter (ed) is sending out gentle reminders about the next issue of The Islander. The most obvious topic to write about is what we saw that captured our attention at the Monaco Show. On the subject of capturing attention, my editorial last month was about being tracked by Big Brother. This grabbed more attention than usual mostly because many readers were shocked to discover how easy it is to see the track of their yacht on the Internet.

However, back to Monaco. There was a lot to capture one's attention, but not a lot of it was technical. One of our girls saw, touched and spoke to Rafa Nadal and, not quite so impressive but still exciting, one of the boys received a kiss from one of the Miss Cote d'Azurs. Such were the attractions but the best technical innovations, in my opinion, were the submarine iPod docking station, The Jetstream and the most beautiful yacht was clearly Ethereal.

The Jetstream

The Jetstream is the first full service media hosting solution designed specifically for the superyacht industry. What is that you ask? Don't worry about what it is. It is what it does for you that is important.

What it does is allow you to watch your own digital TV services from all your homes all around the world. In this case when I say the plural of home I do mean it. I know some of you reading this will immediately be thinking of the Slingbox. The Jetstream can only be compared to a "Slingbox on steroids". Others of you will be thinking, "but I don't have homes", I only have one home. Confused? Well read on.

The Jetstream is a service where they host your own favourite digital satellite decoders placed in racks (or ponds) in either the UK, Europe or the US, depending on the service location. Unlike the Slingbox your decoders are not in your actual "homes", they are looked after by The Jetstream and maintained by them 24/7. So if your Sky decoder hangs up they will re boot it for you.

You then have access to any of your hosted decoders via a web browser from anywhere in the world and you can watch any of your subscribed to channels from any of your decoders. The quality of the received image is remarkable and is directly related to the bandwidth you have available. Thus you can watch it on a large 60" display or projector at the highest resolution if you have a 1.5Mb



dedicated data line or you can watch it at a base resolution, which is completely acceptable, on a smaller screen if you only have 384kbps available. There are 4 different resolutions you can choose from.

This patent pending broadcast quality system places The Jetstream at the forefront of video streaming for discerning mobile customers. It will not replace your yacht's satellite dish and racks of Sky decoders for the Med and DirecTV decoders for the Caribbean. But it will allow the owner to watch the big football game on DirecTV when in the Med or the Premier League match on Sky when in the Caribbean on the yacht's cinema system using the VSAT.

The Jetstream is probably the most personal managed mobile media solution on the market today offering global access to all of your media through a single portal. Any computer with an internet connection becomes a gateway through which you can enjoy your media. So it is not limited just to the yacht, it can be accessed from a hotel Wi-Fi or a friend's house on the other side of the world.

As mentioned the Jetstream have professional antennae arrays located strategically around the globe. They can accommodate in their data processing "ponds" virtually any media on earth. This dedicated global infrastructure and their secure and protected facilities ensure that your media sources can be reliably accessed from anywhere - at the best quality possible.

The gateway to the service is via a web browser so you can watch your TV on a laptop, PC or on a screen attached to either. Crestron are also developing an interface. HD programming is coming soon from The Jetstream but it will require more bandwidth as the quality, thus resolution is higher.

We will have The Jetstream running on our booth (10.614) in the Superyacht Pavilion at METS in November and shortly we will have it running in our office in Portals.

Albeit The Jetstream was officially launched at the Monaco Show we have it running on a number of our VSAT serviced yachts in beta test mode including a trial run on the largest yacht in the world, currently in build, which was very successful.

U-Boat mounted iPod docking station

I am always on the lookout for the latest a craziest iPod docking station. Well this one has to take the biscuit. It was a very simple iPod docking station with 2 speakers but mounted inside a submarine, to allow you to listen to your music without wearing headphones, up to 100 metres below the surface of the sea and without having to hold your breath. How amazing is that? The only



downsides to it were a) the price and b) it only comes in orange so no use at all if your iPod is pink!

But seriously, these 2 man and 3 man subs were the best toys I have seen in a long time. Great quality, traditional UFO shaped, electric drives, silent (apart from the noisy iPod). As with Ethereal, they use Lithium-Ion batteries. Lithium-Ion batteries are smaller, lighter and require less charge but are a lot more expensive. The subs, when sealed keep the pressure to 1 atmosphere, as on land at sea level, so require no decompression to dive to 100 metres. They keep going until the batteries run out.

The magnificent Ethereal

The latest 58m launch from Royal Huisman was certainly the yacht of the show. We are very proud to have been involved with Ethereal, as consultants, from an early stage, and to have designed, supplied and installed the twin VSATs on the mizzen mast which feature a new Rapid Transfer Switch (RTS) that enables any process that is running, such as a video conferencing session or a VoIP telephone call, to keep going as the yacht turns and one dish disappears behind the mast and the other dish takes over. The RTS is pretty unique in that it switches the process from one dish to another in 20 milliseconds, which is essential if you do not want to lose the IP session in progress. Due to the success of this switch we are installing this on a number of other yachts at the moment. Also as part of our contribution to the technology on Ethereal we have turned her into a roving GSM cell at sea so anyone can use their GSM handset almost anywhere in the world.

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