

Wired Ocean

The third system we heard of is one suitable for the Med-based one-season yacht that wishes occasional connectivity at an economical cost. It's called Wired Ocean and although not new – being launched in '06 – it only came to our notice recently. The system uses a TVRO or TV receive only (TVRO) sat dish for downlink and uplinks via whatever is the least cost available: GSM, GPRS, Iridium, Inmarsat or even – when alongside – PSTN or landline. This is not the first unit to use such a technique but what is unique, Wired Ocean claim, is that it is a one-box PnP solution. No software need be loaded on board the yacht's computers. The 1 U Satellite Broadband Server rack unit is simply connected to the uplink communications devices and of course the TVRO dish. A simple RJ 45 port allows the network access to the internet just as one would, for example, with an ADSL modem ashore. The server is transparent to mail systems such as AMOS and a simple web page interface allows the user on a connected computer to control the uplink and ensure that the unit is disconnected when not required. Currently the system used Euro Bird and Hot Bird and will soon work with Thor 2. Download speeds are up to 512 kbps, uplink of course depends (as does cost control) on the connection used at any given time. The on-board unit is remotely maintainable and updatable by Wired Ocean, runs on Linux and has a built in firewall. The system has various protocols built in to reduce cost such as HTTP pre-fetching, DNS and HTTP caching, TCP acceleration with negative acknowledgment and lossless compression to improve efficiency. Currently the system is offered on a volume pricing plan which will suit many low-usage yachts, and Clive Widdowsdon of AGC – Antibes

based French distributor for Wired Ocean – says they may soon introduce a monthly on-all-the-time pricing plan. AGC will have the unit on their stand at MYS. Wired Ocean claim one hour of internet access (defined as 4.6 to 5 mb down and .4 mb up) using Wired Ocean down and Inmarsat MPDS up is only €13.80 compared with €113 where the whole session is MPDS only. The system will not normally prevent the users simultaneously watching the TV service from the satellite being used to download internet data; for instance Euro Bird is the same position as Astra 2 Sky, allowing simultaneous internet and Sky TV. This system will be particularly attractive to yachts that already have Sat TV above the deck installed and wish a simple retrofit to gain internet connectivity.

www.wiredocean.com

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Wired Ocean Maritime Broadband



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