



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

HM Government of Gibraltar

Watergate House
2/8 Casemates Square
Gibraltar

Tel (+350)200 46862 / 200 47771 /200 50424
Fax (+350) 200 47770
e-mail: maritime.survey@gibraltar.gov.gi
maritime.registry@gibraltar.gov.gi

Shipping Information Notice – 083

LRIT – IsatM2M service

To: Ship owners, Operators, Managers, DPA's

The purpose of this Shipping Information Notice (SIN), is to bring to the attention of owners/operators of Gibraltar ships, the below communication and subsequent guidance provided by LRIT service provider Messer's Pole Star regarding IsatM2M satellite service provision by ORBCOMM (previously Skywave), which will suffer coverage difficulties in North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Sea of Okhotsk, Philippine Sea, Coral Sea, Tasman Sea, and South Pacific Ocean regions post 31 December 2020.

Owner/operators who's ships operating in the above-mentioned regions are to take note of the communication below, and take appropriate actions as required to ensure ships continue to have the necessary systems in place in order to maintain LRIT requirements.

Extract of communication:

“ORBCOMM (previously Skywave) had confirmed that the IsatM2M satellite service provision was due to be extended for an additional year, on a best-effort basis, until 31 December 2021.

ORBCOMM have now provided further information stating that the IsatM2M service for the Pacific Ocean Region (POR) is excluded from this extension, and service for this region will end on 31 December 2020.

This means that the legacy units associated with the IsatM2M network, such as the DMR800 or DSAS Mk1, will no longer operate whilst the vessel / transceiver is located in the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Sea of Okhotsk, Philippine Sea, Coral Sea, Tasman Sea, and South Pacific Ocean (Inmarsat I3 Pacific Ocean Region).

Next Steps

ORBCOMM have stated that the remaining IsatM2M service will continue on a "best efforts basis", despite the risk of aging network elements. However, there remains a concern that the IsatM2M service may prove insufficient for critical position reporting services, even outside of the POR region and we have been advised that the IsatM2M service may be subject to transmission gaps.

To aid your migration path, the table below will help guide your upgrade options in moving over to the IsatDataPro service. Please select the relevant hardware replacement option for more information.

- Skywave DMR-800 (for general tracking): being replaced by ST 6100
- Skywave DMR-800 (for LRIT compliance): being replaced by Sirius One
- Pole Star DSAS Mk1 (for SSAS compliance): being replaced by DSAS Mk2

Given the ongoing challenges we are all facing and the lack of certainty regarding this network provision, we are pleased to offer a significant discount to our RRP for the above listed hardware solutions. Simply contact us via sales@polestarglobal.com to understand more.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please reach out to your account manager, contact our 24/7 support desk on +44 20 7313 7400 or email sales@polestarglobal.com.”

Steve Gomez
Chief Surveyor (Ag)

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