Imtech introduces IPTV

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Imtech Marine reports that it has developed a low cost IPTV solution specifically suitable for merchant and special vessels.

The IPTV system is based on Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) and offers interactive multimedia services such as television, video, audio, text and graphics delivered over IP-based networks. The system eliminates the need for a cable TV infrastructure and works via a plug-and-play IP network. Content will include movies, TV series, music, news and sports.

The system also offers further functionality as a tailored infotainment system, to communicate information about the company, to describe safety procedures and to educate the crew about relevant topics. The system can be integrated with Imtech Marine’s Global VSAT solution, to facilitate remote access, trouble-shooting and maintenance.

Imtech says that the system was developed in close collaboration with Belgian dredging company Jan De Nul, which has installed IPTV on its entire fleet. "Crew entertainment for Jan De Nul is an important part of crew welfare. The Jan De Nul crew must feel at home while on board," says Ruben De Lille of Jan De Nul.

"We offer services that can be compared to a four star hotel. Apart from good food in the messroom, a fully equipped gymnasium and a lounge bar, each cabin is provided with modern devices: free internet access, a television set with DVD player and an Entertainment system that allows the crew to watch both satellite and terrestrial TV channels, listen to the radio or music on demand and to watch video-on-demand movies."

"Our crew is on duty 12 hours a day, for six weeks at a time. After work it is important for them to have the possibility to relax. Our Entertainment system plays an important role in this. Even in the gymnasium we have installed some Entertainment stations so our crew can relax both their body and mind."
Imtech notes that its IPTV solution feeds the system on a regular basis with recently released movies, via commercial distribution rights agreements for Video On Demand/IPTV with Columbia Pictures, 20th Century Fox, Universal, DreamWorks, Warner Bros and Paramount Studios, with further agreements to be added shortly. Imtech has also acquired licences from other content producers, such as the BBC.

The crew can choose a channel in their cabin and select TV in different languages or subtitles. They choose movies from a catalogue containing all the movies added to the server onboard - downloading from the internet is not necessary.

Imtech says that there is a monthly fee for the service, charged to the ship operator, rather than paying per movie.