Castor Marine

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PRESS RELEASE

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Shipping Company Groningen contracts Castor Marine to outfit 30 vessels with Global and EU 4G connectivity packages

Shipping Company Groningen (SCG) has contracted offshore internet services provider Castor Marine to install its Global 4G Connectivity package on all 30 of its vessels. With this, the coasters will have a fast, global 4G-LTE internet connection for its crews.

On its fleet, SCG offers its personnel a Crew Welfare Zone with free internet within the 12-mile (4G) zone. To realise this, SCG wanted a plug&play, cost-efficient system that is always operational and doesn't interfere with the crew's activities.

Seamless internet connection

To make this happen, a seamless transition between 4G and the Inmarsat Fleetbroadband (or Iridium Open Port L-Band satellite connection) outside that zone was needed. Castor Marine's 4G Connectivity Package (incl. dedicated software installed on the Peplink routers) ensures a seamless failover of connectivity between the 4G and satellite connection. Hence, the crew doesn't notice the transition and simply can get on with their work. Furthermore, the connection allows for real-time data insights from any device.

When Clemens Ros and Marc van Gemert from SCG's IT department wanted advice about a 4G service for its crew, Castor Marine came up with a hybrid connectivity solution switching between 4G LTE and L-band.

Marc van Gemert, IT Manager at SCG, says: "W*e chose Castor Marine because of the pleasant cooperation, correct pricing and their responsive way of working which ensures that the technical solution we were looking for was customised to our fleet. Actually, some of our captains have already reported that they had 4G connectivity at 45 nautical miles from the coast. We are looking forward to see the system installed and then be able to forget about it!*"

Things have to work…

Raymon Lubbers, sales director at Castor Marine says: "*With our system, you'll never have to check if an internet connection is still running when it shouldn't. The services and equipment we deliver have to work, always. Both as crewmember and in the office, you don't notice these things until it doesn't work. We strive, on every vessel, to never reach that point. That is why we have tested and certified the 4G solution extensively. It is also the reason our Support Network Operating Centre is on call 24/7.*"

User control

For those who are more technically inclined: no matter where the vessel is or with which network it is connected, the software ensures that a VPN tunnel continues to exist even when the IP addresses change when the vessel connects to another network.

With a mix of, amongst others, user rights, firewalls, SD-WAN and real-time monitoring tools for each individual data stream and access point, the user is in control.

About SCG

Shipping Company Groningen has been established at the end of 2016 after a merger between Feederlines, Navigia and Thorco Shipping Holland. From our '*House of Shipping*' located in Groningen we provide full service shipmanagement services to a worldwide sailing fleet of around 35 vessels.

Besides our regular shipmanagement activities, we were the first Dutch shipping company that made use of latest blockchain technology for investment purposes. Via our own investment platform ShipFund it is possible to directly invest in our fleet via the purchase of so called ShipBonds. These bonds have a duration of two years and an interest percentage of 4,25% per annum.

Want to know more about us?
www.shippinggroningen.nl
www.shipfund.nl

About Castor Marine

Castor Marine delivers secure internet connectivity and IT networks. The company is part of Castor Networks (est. 2005), privately owned and has offices in the Netherlands (HQ), Norway and France.

Castor Marine operates worldwide and offers installation, integration and real-time monitoring of Internet traffic, reliable connectivity solutions and all related IT systems. To guarantee global coverage, Castor owns and operates several teleports and a fibre network.

For all systems and equipment, Castor offers a broad range of services, including 24/7 support, maintenance, spare parts and training. The company's professionals are fully certified to work onboard worldwide.

Knowing that what we deliver must work – always – our goal is to create a lasting and genuine relationship with our customers by being flexible and responsive.
www.castormarine.com

4G coverage package

Castor Marine ensures you are always online in the most cost-effective way. In 4G coverage the vessel uses 4G while outside of 4G coverage it automatically switches to the L-band satellite connection and vice versa. The service also ensures the vessel does not use the expensive L-band connection when it shouldn't. All equipment onboard is monitored and managed remotely 24/7 ensuring continuous operation for the vessel.