

i4S - Innovative Satcom Security System for Ships

Applications: Location-Based Satcom Services

"The rationale behind this project is to support the development of our spin-off company by creating new services dedicated to maritime activities in accordance with current maritime regulation to improve security onboard ships."

Jean Muller, Commercial Director, Novacom Services



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PROFILE:

A subsidiary of CLS, the exclusive operator of the Argos system, and CNES, the French space agency, Novacom Services is an application service provider dedicated to vehicle tracking and data collection from any PC connected to the Internet. Novacom Services offers turn-key services to road hauliers, merchant shipping, construction companies and waste-management companies for large cities.

The i4s project objective is to develop a dedicated maritime service based on an application hosted by the existing Novacom platform. Future clients such as ship owners and shippers will use the Novacom platform in an Application Service Provider mode: access over the Internet with the possibility to retrieve regular position information and to send return messages to the field in real-time.

The i4s project objective is to build an SSAS service based on the adoption of the SOLAS regulation. This regulation requires ships over 500 GT to be equipped with an alarm system (Ship Security Alert System) in order to reinforce ship security. This system allows the crew to push an alarm button, in the case of piracy for example, that automatically sends a message to the competent authority and to the ship's owner.

Though the i4s application is the heart of the project, the service can only be complete with a hardware terminal installed on the ship. The primary intention is to build on the existing ARGOS beacon, the ShipLoc IV terminal, dedicated to piracy prevention. Nevertheless, the strategy is clearly to keep the service open to the largest range of equipment by developing several space telecom interfaces.