



Marlink's Eik Teleport turns 40 this year

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Marlink: Marlink Celebrates 40 Years of Pioneering Satcom at Eik Teleport

Eik Teleport – Four decades as a cornerstone in the development of business critical communication solutions and an essential resource for the invention of modern maritime VSAT 25 years ago

Posidonia 2016, Athens, Greece, 7 June 2016 – Marlink's Eik Teleport, one of the first maritime satellite communication receiving facilities in the world and the first to serve oil installations in the North Sea, turns 40 this year. Eik has played an important role in the development of maritime communication

services over the past four decades. It is one of the fully owned Teleports in Marlink's high quality network infrastructure that enables the delivery of secure and resilient communication services around the globe.

In the early nineties, the technical facilities and expertise at Eik Teleport were essential to Marlink's introduction of reliable VSAT services based on maritime stabilised antennas. The first field trial on the Floating Production and Storage (FPSO) unit Petrojarl-1 took place in 1991, using Eik to relay traffic. Subsequent projects with involvement from Eik Teleport, such as the first installation on the ferry MS Peter Wessel and the pilot Ku-band installation on the seismic vessel MV Geco Topaz paved the way for today's innovative ship's VSAT services.

Eik Teleport has also been crucial to the development of Inmarsat services for the shipping industry. First maritime satellite communication tests were started in 1976 based on the provisional 'MARISAT' system, which led to the creation of Inmarsat in 1979 with Eik Teleport being established as the first European station for the fledgling satellite communication company.

Officially opened by 'Televerket', the Norwegian Postal, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT) service in April 1976, Eik Teleport established its first link to the oilfield in the North Sea in July that year. The facility has since been essential to provide critical connectivity services and the ongoing transformation of offshore oil & gas operations in the North Sea.

Today, the Eik Teleport facility spans 10 acres on a hillside outside of Stavanger, Norway. It employs approximately 80 people, primarily engineers, antenna engineers and network experts. In addition to being a key hub in Marlink's global VSAT network and teleport for Inmarsat-C traffic, Eik Teleport also provides network set-up services, 24/7 teleport operation, VSAT technical support, training and testing labs.

Eik Teleport will continue to play an important role by supporting the ongoing digitalisation of maritime operations, enabling platforms and vessels to operate smarter and more effectively through online collaboration and the power of Big Data.

"Developments at Eik Teleport form the foundation of modern satellite communications at sea and the services that Marlink delivers to thousands of vessels worldwide today," said Tore Morten Olsen, President Maritime, Marlink.

“Throughout the history of Eik Teleport, we have gained unrivalled knowledge and experience, which today supports our extensive portfolio of reliable global satcom solutions that cater for customers in shipping, offshore oil & gas, fishing and yachting.”

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About Marlink

Marlink is the pioneer of business critical communication solutions for customers operating in remote environments. With 600 employees and 27 offices worldwide, the company is the largest technology-independent satellite communication and digital solutions provider serving the maritime and enterprise markets. Marlink's multi-band communication services covering Ku, Ka, C and L-band extended with mobile and terrestrial links, enable over 200,000 customers to operate in an ever smarter, safer and more profitable way.

With over 75 years' experience in developing innovative business critical communication solutions, Marlink's strategy is to deliver the benefits of a digital and connected world to its customers' remote operations. Today Marlink is the leading maritime communication and VSAT operator in the world. Marlink leverages strong partnerships with all major satellite network operators to deliver communication solutions direct to the customer and via an unrivalled network of service provider partners.

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