

Anglo-Eastern Group celebrates 100th 'Starlink' maritime installation

By Hemang Palan | Twitter/X : @hemang_palan

Hong Kong-headquartered and a global shipping conglomerate, Anglo-Eastern Group celebrated the 100th installation of 'Starlink' within its managed fleet last week, mere months after announcing its commitment to the service. The global ship manager has seen an overwhelmingly positive response in respect of both operations and crew wellbeing.



'Starlink' is an advanced broadband satellite internet, and world's first and largest satellite constellation using a low Earth orbit to deliver broadband internet capable of supporting streaming, online gaming, video calls and more.

Mr Torbjorn Dimblad, Chief Information Officer of Anglo-Eastern Group said, "We now have Starlink-equipped vessels operating in every corner of the world and we are delighted with the service. We consistently experience internet speed exceeding 100 Mbps in every Starlink-equipped vessel". Mr Dimblad stated that Starlink's electronic phased array antenna has proved to be highly reliable. He added, "Starlink-equipped vessels in the Anglo-Eastern fleet have 90% fewer connectivity-related issues. The connection speed has also enabled 30% faster resolution of IT support issues, marking a paradigm shift in the way we operate."

The improved connectivity is transforming the interactions between shore-side teams and vessels. Mr Vikrant Malhotra, Managing Director of Anglo-Eastern Group QHSE said, "Our QHSE teams run frequent connections with our vessels to discuss incidents and learning. This used to be a one-to-one conversation earlier, but we are now running combined sessions with three or four vessels over a 'Teams video call'. It is wonderful to see crews interacting with one another, and since it is now a shared experience between vessels' teams, we are seeing stronger ownership and collaboration on process improvements".

In reaching this milestone, Anglo-Eastern Group engaged with its crew gathering valuable feedback on all aspects of the service and its impact on life at sea. "The crew are overwhelmingly positive," said Capt Vinay Singh, Anglo-Eastern Group Managing Director of Marine HR. "Initially, there were some concerns ashore that individuals would spend more time online and alone in their quarters potentially affecting overall team cohesion. However, this has not been the case with 91% of respondents saying that time spent online remained largely unchanged," he added. The improved internet speed aboard Starlink-equipped vessels allows crews to connect with their families and friends through video calls, stay up-to-date on news and sporting events, etc. Many respondents have also embraced online learning aboard Starlink-equipped vessels by completing maritime courses during their time at sea. Capt Vinay Singh said that their survey indicates that beyond individual benefits, enhanced communications have significantly improved team engagement with over 90% of respondents reporting a boost in morale and improved relationships amongst crew members aboard Starlink-equipped vessels.

Mr Carsten Ostfeldt, Chief Operating Officer of Anglo-Eastern Group said, "It is well documented that an engaged team has a profound impact on safe, reliable, and efficient vessel operations. We are pleased to see that the introduction of this technology has had such a positive development across the fleet of Anglo-Eastern Group."

As Anglo-Eastern Group celebrates this achievement, it reaffirms the Group's dedication to being pioneers in deploying transformative technologies for the benefit of vessels and their crews. Capt Bjorn Hojgaard, Chief Executive Officer of Anglo-Eastern Group said, "We look forward to these contributions by making the global maritime industry more resilient, efficient, and interconnected than ever before."

Anglo-Eastern is one of the largest employers of Indian seafarers and operates Anglo Eastern Maritime Academy - a world-class maritime training institution based in the Maharashtra State of India.