



DIGITAL YACHT INTRODUCES SMARTERTRACK AIS SOLUTION

AIS (Automatic Identification Service) is an International standard that allows ships to automatically send their identity, position, course, speed, and other safety-related information over two dedicated VHF channels in a digitally coded format. Under IMO regulations, AIS is mandatory on all vessels over 300 gross registered tons and any vessel that is involved in passenger carrying activity. Consequently, the majority of commercial ships, charter passenger vessels and commercial operators now have an AIS transponder fitted onboard their vessel.

SmarterTrack is a new system from Digital Yacht, which combines a compact dual channel VHF AIS decoder, together with some sophisticated PC software to allow the position, identity and heading information of nearby vessels equipped with AIS to be overlaid onto detailed electronic charting. The system can be thought of as a radar substitute but also as a radar enhancement, as it double checks the target identity and overlays it onto detailed electronic charting, making the data even easier to interpret.

The solution comprises of a small black box receiver, about the size of a pack of cigarettes, which requires a dedicated VHF antenna connection. This provides a serial data output for a PC, and the complete solution is supplied with Nobeltec's VNS electronic charting solution with an AIS module included. Once set up and installed, the system offers all the normal electronic charting functions, such as an input from the GPS with unlimited waypoints and route creation, plus also an overlay of all the AIS data.

Nobeltec's electronic charting system is the US's best-selling charting package and has now won the NMEA award for Best Electronic PC Navigation for the past 4 years. Digital Yacht has teamed up with Nobeltec to offer this solution in addition to their range of radar and electronic navigation packages.

The suggested retail price is £449.95 including VAT, for software, Internet cables and a dual channel AIS receiver.