



Cyber Security Roundtable Identifies Key Issues of Concern to Maritime Industry

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KVH-hosted session points to wide range of human and technical issues responsible for a variety of vulnerabilities

MIDDLETOWN, R.I., March 22, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- KVH Industries, Inc., (Nasdaq:KVHI), hosted maritime industry leaders for a frank discussion about cyber security prior to the start of the CMA Shipping 2016 conference in Stamford, Connecticut, yesterday morning. During the roundtable, a range of concerns about the current level of vulnerability emerged. Among the key issues identified were complacency by ship operators, lack of training for crew, non-existent contingency plans for dealing with a cyber attack, and the need for a set of best practices for minimizing risks.

"We need to bring the same best practices that we expect on shore and in our corporate networks to ships," said Rick Driscoll, KVH vice president of satellite products and services. "Ship operators need to make sure there's a process that is consistent throughout their organization, especially as ships are increasing their data usage. For example, a vessel's digital systems must be configured to ensure personal devices brought onboard by the crew use a network separate from ship operations, and that individual passwords are utilized when logging onto the ship's computer systems, rather than relying on one password common to the ship. Those practices would be standard procedure anywhere else."



The panelists participating in the roundtable were: Gerardo Borromeo, president, InterManager; Nigel Cleave, CEO, Videotel; Rick Driscoll, KVH; Angus Frew, secretary general, BIMCO; Peter Hinchliffe, secretary general, International Chamber of Shipping (ICS); Viraj Nilakanta, manager of business development, Fleet Management Ltd.; Denis Petropoulos, president, Braemar Asia; Esben Poulsen, president of the Singapore Shipping Association; and, Katharina Stanzel, managing director, Intertanko. Sean Moloney, editor of *Ship Management International*, was the moderator, and will be producing an article and white paper on the topic.

Several panelists mentioned that the issue is only beginning to be understood by the industry. "I think currently ships are relatively low-tech, and there is a high degree of complacency," said Peter Hinchliffe, secretary general, ICS. "As ships get more high tech, which is happening rapidly, we very much need guidelines and contingency plans."

To instill safe cyber behavior among onboard personnel, panelists mentioned the importance of training. "With increased emphasis on minimizing cyber risks, education and training of the seafarers is vital, but it must be supported from the top," says Nigel Cleave, CEO of Videotel, a KVH company. "Crew need to be aware of the risks, for example, of bringing unlicensed material onboard, which could introduce a virus or other problem."

Videotel is currently collaborating with BIMCO on a maritime training program about safe cyber practices for seafarers, using the recently published "Guidelines on Cyber Security Onboard Ships," as a point of reference. The guidelines were produced by several maritime groups including BIMCO, ICS, and Intertanko.

One particularly challenging aspect discussed by the panel is the fact that maritime regulations may never be able to keep up with the fast pace of cyber crimes, which are continually evolving. Regulations must be accompanied by a shift in mindset, panelists noted, so that awareness is raised on every level, whether it is about the personal devices brought onboard or a malicious attack that could compromise a ship's navigation system.

Industry guidelines, it was felt, should ensure that vessels have cyber attack contingency plans in place and are doing drills just as they do for other types of safety risks onboard. "Regulations can set minimum levels of security practices, and industry guidelines can build on that," said KVH's Rick Driscoll. "Just as on land, it is impossible to be 100% protected against cyber risks. However, establishing contingency plans and following cyber safety measures will give vessels a much higher level of protection."

KVH and KVH Media Group are participating in other panel discussions during the CMA Shipping 2016 conference this week. On Wednesday, March 23, at 9:50 a.m., Sue Henney, head of marketing for Videotel, KVH Media Group, and Crewtoo will discuss trends in seafarer happiness based on the soon-to-be-released Crewtoo Seafarers Happiness Index annual report. On Wednesday, March 23, at 10:15 a.m., Mike Mitsock, vice president of marketing for KVH, will speak on the topic of big data as a two-way communications tool vital to commercial maritime success.

Note to Editors: For more information about KVH's maritime solutions, please visit the KVH website, www.minivsat.com/one. For more information about Videotel's maritime training programs, please visit the Videotel website, www.videotel.com. High-resolution images of KVH products are available at the [KVH Press Room Image Library](http://www.kvh.com/press-room/image-library), www.kvh.com/press-room/image-library.

About KVH Industries, Inc.

KVH Industries is a leading provider of in-motion satellite TV and communications systems, having designed, manufactured, and sold more than 200,000 mobile satellite antennas for applications on vessels, vehicles, and aircraft. KVH is also a leading news, music, and entertainment content provider to many industries including maritime, retail, and leisure. Videotel, a KVH company, is the market-leading provider of training films, computer-based training and e-Learning. KVH is based in Middletown, RI, with research, development, and manufacturing operations in Middletown, RI, and Tinley Park, IL. The company's global presence includes offices in Belgium, Brazil, Cyprus, Denmark, Hong Kong, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

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