



## 92% of Seafarers Strongly Influenced By Internet Access When Choosing Where to Work, According to Futurenavics Survey

March 28, 2018

### **The Crew Connectivity 2018 Survey Report, sponsored by KVH Industries and Intelsat, shows digital transformation underway in the maritime industry**

MIDDLETOWN, R.I., March 28, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Roger Adamson, Futurenavics Maritime's chief executive officer, presented to a London audience yesterday the key findings from his research organization's newly released *Crew Connectivity 2018 Survey Report*, sponsored by KVH Industries, Inc. (Nasdaq:KVHI) and Intelsat S.A. (NYSE:I). The report is based on a survey of 6,000 serving seafarers, the largest sample to date to complete the wide-ranging questionnaire covering onboard attitudes to the digital transformation sweeping the industry.

According to the report, more seafarers than ever have access to connectivity: Some 75% of seafarers can now use the Internet at sea, which is a rise of 32% or over half a million more crew (520,000, to be exact) since the last survey three years ago. Futurenavics Maritime conducted the first survey in 2012, in an effort to provide data of value to the maritime industry.

"It's our belief that collaborating and sharing information can accelerate the pace of transformation in shipping and maritime, and begin to understand and solve big problems," says Mr. Adamson. "The Crew Connectivity survey is a clear demonstration of that process in action."

The report's findings show a change in mindset among seafarers regarding many aspects of connectivity. Among the key findings:

- 92% of seafarers reported that Internet access strongly influences their decision on where to work, up from 78% in prior years.
- 95% of seafarers view connectivity as having a positive effect on onboard safety, an increase of 72% since the 2015 survey.
- 69% of respondents view the increasing use of big data and analytics as a positive opportunity for their jobs in the next five years, versus 17% who see it as a threat.

"This is an extremely exciting time for the maritime industry, as digitalization begins to transform ship operations and open up many opportunities to keep this industry vital," notes Martin Kits van Heyningen, KVH's chief executive officer. "We are delighted to support this report, which reinforces the importance of connectivity and how it is changing the life of the individual seafarer."

"This report further emphasizes the need and desire—from shipping crews to passengers—to have robust, flexible networks that enable always-on connectivity," says Shane Rossbacher, Intelsat's director of maritime product management. "We are gratified to see that global high throughput services have further enhanced the ability for ship operators to improve the lives of crew members by providing additional services and the ability to stay in touch with home as well as boost the efficiency of vessel operations."

In addition to sponsorship by KVH and Intelsat, the report received support from leading maritime organizations BIMCO, Alpha Navigation, PTC, ISWAN and InterManager.

*Note to Editors:* To download a copy of *Futurenavics Maritime Crew Connectivity 2018 Survey Report*, visit the [Futurenavics website](http://Futurenavics website), crewconnectivity.com. For more information about KVH's maritime connectivity solutions, including the new TracPhone<sup>®</sup> V7-HTS, please visit the [KVH website](http://KVH website), kvh.com/connections. For more information about Intelsat's Epic<sup>NG</sup> satellites and IntelsatOne Flex platform, please visit the [Intelsat website](http://Intelsat website), intelsat.com/intelsatone-flex.

#### **About KVH Industries, Inc.**

KVH Industries is a leading provider of innovative systems and solutions for the mobile connectivity and inertial navigation markets. The company has designed, manufactured, and sold more than 200,000 mobile satellite antennas for applications on vessels and vehicles. KVH is also a leading news, music, and entertainment content provider to many industries including maritime, retail, and leisure. Videotel<sup>TM</sup>, a KVH company, is a market-leading provider of training films, computer-based training, and eLearning for the maritime industry. 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 Brazil, Cyprus, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

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