

Connectivity at sea

92% of seafarers strongly influenced by internet access when choosing where to work

Futureonautics Survey

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

This was reported by KVH Industries Inc from Middletown, Rhode Island, on 28 March.

Roger Adamson, Futureonautics Maritime's CEO presented to a London audience the key findings from his research organization's newly released *Crew Connectivity 2018 Survey Report*.

It is reported that the document 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. Futureonautics Maritime conducted the first survey in 2012, in an effort to provide data of value to the maritime industry.

Said Adamson: *'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. 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.

Added Martin Kits van Heyningen, KVH's CEO: *'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. We are delighted to support this report, which reinforces the importance of connectivity and how it is changing the life of the individual seafarer.'*

Shane Rossbacher, Intelsat's director of maritime product management, concluded by saying: *'This report further emphasizes the need and desire—from shipping crews to passengers—to have robust, flexible networks that enable always-on connectivity. 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 maritime organizations BIMCO, Alpha Navigation, PTC, ISWAN and InterManager.