ELCOME INTERNATIONAL TO PROVIDE OMAN COASTAL RADIOCOMMUNICATION NETWORK

It was announced from Dubai, UAE, on 8th September that Elcome International, a marine electronics services, systems and equipment provider in the Middle East and one of the largest marine technology suppliers in the world, is playing a key role in building a new maritime communication network for the Sultanate of Oman.

Under a subcontract awarded in April 2014 by Frequentis AG of Austria, Elcome is supplying key components of the network, as well as system integration, installation, training and maintenance for equipment in the operations centre and at remote sites.

The network is deployed and operated by Qnective Middle East. The local subsidiary of the Swiss company Qnective was awarded through its Omani partner company, Al-Madakhel Investment LLC, a First Class A Licence for network construction and operation by the Sultanate of Oman.

It is understood that this network will provide the obligatory shore-based terrestrial and satellite-based Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) communication services covering Sea Areas A1, A2 and A3 of Oman’s territorial waters and beyond. This includes an upgrade of the existing NAVTEX maritime safety information broadcasting system. In addition, the integrated system encompasses a new coastwide Automatic Identification System (AIS) and a ground-based segment for receiving and processing COSPAS-SARSAT distress alerts from emergency beacons.

The Oman network will be managed from a dedicated Maritime Radiocommunication Operations Centre (MROC), operated by Qnective Middle East in Muscat, which is equipped with state-of-the-art technology for control of all maritime communications in Oman. The operations centre is manned 24 hours a day and there is also a large training facility.

Coastal infrastructure in these waters includes strategically located radio sites around Oman’s coastline from Khasab in the north to a location west of Salalah, as well as two NAVTEX transmission sites in Wattayah and Salalah to give coverage of Oman’s sea lanes out to 275 nautical miles. AIS receivers and direction-finding antennae are co-located at remote radio sites to track and monitor vessels out to 30 nautical miles offshore, including Oman’s large commercial fishing fleet.
The entire maritime radiocommunication network should be completed in February 2015, it is understood.

Said Jimmy Grewal, executive director of Elcome International, “This large-scale coastal infrastructure project is a good example of the full range of technical services Elcome offers. We specialize in designing, installing and supporting difficult and complex integrated systems.”

About Elcome International LLC
Based in Dubai, Elcome International LLC is a diversified supplier of turnkey solutions for marine electronics, electrical and safety systems for the world maritime industry. Founded in 1969, Elcome is headquartered in a modern 100,000 sq. ft. facility in Dubai, with offices in United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, as well as a subsidiary and associated companies in India.

The Elcome Group (including associated companies) has over 500 employees across the Middle East and India, including over 100 factory-trained engineers and technicians. The company is certified to ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2004 and CHS 18001:2007 by DNV.

Elcome is the authorized sales and service representative for many of the world’s major manufacturers of marine products and systems, and manufactures its own line of type-approved marine electrical switchboards under the ELSYS brand name. The company provides shipboard installation and service for navigation, communication, automation, manoeuvring and safety systems.

The group services over 600 vessels each month in the Arabian Gulf alone, with a first time fix rate of 96%. In addition, Elcome is claimed to be the region’s largest supplier of nautical charts and publications, both print and digital, and operates a modern training centre and bridge simulator under a joint venture with Maersk Training. Elcome was ranked fifth in the Dubai SME100 for 2013.

Picture caption
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