

Inmarsat-B

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TITLE/POSITION

Inmarsat Product Manager

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Inmarsat-B is a global communications system which extends the advantages of modern digital technology to the field of mobile satellite communications.

Inmarsat-B is seen as the eventual successor to the highly successful Inmarsat-A analogue system, although the two will continue to co-exist well into the next century.

THE SYSTEM

Compared with Inmarsat-A, Inmarsat-B makes improved use of satellite power and bandwidth, enabling service providers to offer users much lower charges while maintaining high quality and reliability.

A basic Inmarsat-B mobile terminal can provide all the communications of a well equipped office - direct-dial, high quality telephone, Group 3 facsimile, telex, and 64kbit/s and 56kbit/s high speed connections. A 9.6kbit/s data connection is also part of the service. Enhanced and modified terminals are

available from some manufacturers for fixed, multiple-channels and other special applications such as compressed or delayed video transmission using high-speed data.

Like all of Inmarsat's systems, Inmarsat-B brings the advantages of world-wide service availability, reliability and high quality regardless of distance or environmental conditions, as well as a high level of communications security. Through its partnership of service providers, manufacturers, retailers, and system integrators, the Inmarsat system offers its customers a wide range of global competitive services and facilities.

TERMINALS

Inmarsat-B maritime terminals use tracking antenna of about 80cms in diameter, stabilised to remain locked on to the satellite regardless of vessel movement. To protect it from the elements, the antenna is housed in a radome and should be mounted in a position where it cannot be masked by the superstructure of the vessel. Below-decks equipment is compact (only a little larger than the average video recorder) making Inmarsat-B suitable for installation where space is limited.

The International Maritime Organisation has certified Inmarsat-B as satisfying requirements for its Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, giving safety coverage for virtually all of the world's navigable ocean waters.

Many of Inmarsat's users are on land, and this proportion is growing rapidly as customers discover the potential of a high quality communications service

that operates anywhere, without the need for any support infrastructure.

Suitcase sized transportable terminals offering the latest in compact design are already in widespread use, and other terminals are available for specialised applications.

Inmarsat-B services are available worldwide through several LESs in each ocean region.

A call from an Inmarsat-B terminal is routed via the Inmarsat satellite system to a land earth station (LES) and thence into the national and international phone and data networks.

USERS

Inmarsat-B appeals particularly to existing high-volume users of Inmarsat-A. In the maritime environment these include the offshore exploration industry and cruise-ship operators.

On land, customers include the media (compressed video and broadcast-quality audio transmission over high-speed datalinks), government agencies and peacekeeping forces (using the encryption capability), aid organisations and all those who require full office communications in areas lacking a fixed telecommunications infrastructure.

For further information about Inmarsat-B, please contact:

Inmarsat's web site:

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