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Blue Ocean Wireless and Stratos to provide GSM communication for merchant ships

Blue Ocean Wireless (BOW), a provider of GSM communication capability for the merchant maritime sector, has formed an alliance with Stratos Global Corporation (TSX:SGB) to provide Inmarsat satellite services to BOW's customers on a non-exclusive basis.

Stratos is a provider of advanced mobile and fixed-site remote communications solutions.

Successful trials of the offering were conducted by Blue Ocean Wireless, Stratos and Inmarsat in late 2006 on board two container vessels.

Under the partnership the companies will provide a dedicated global GSM service for crew members of merchant ships. Stratos will host Blue Ocean Wireless equipment at each of its Land Earth Stations around the world and provide terrestrial connectivity to GSM operators for BOW via its StratosNexus network.

The service will enable the crew members to use their existing mobile phones on board vessels in deep ocean water, and it will also enable ship owners, suppliers, customers, insurers and government authorities to track and monitor individual containers on board merchant vessels, using a combination of GPRS and RFID technology.

No financial details were disclosed.