

PRESS RELEASE

Sternula and Space Norway Sign the Satellite VDES Network Access Agreement

Sternula and Space Norway have entered a strategic agreement on satellite VDES network access to accelerate the rollout of maritime digital services globally. Under the agreement, Space Norway will provide satellite VDES capacity from its payload on the Norwegian NorSat-2 satellite, while Sternula will offer end-to-end “AIS 2.0” connectivity through its network of networks for maritime digital services that enhance security at sea and operational efficiency.

VDES builds upon the proven AIS system, a SOLAS carriage requirement since 2002, currently deployed on more than 300,000 vessels worldwide. By adding secure data channels, significantly greater capacity, and global two-way satellite connectivity, all without requiring new antennas onboard ships or on land, VDES represents a major leap forward for maritime digitalization. This system is designed to enable new digital services that enhance maritime safety and support more efficient route planning and traffic management, ultimately benefiting ship owners, ports, and authorities.

At its 110th session in June 2025, the IMO’s Maritime Safety Committee approved amendments to SOLAS, to include VDES in SOLAS Chapter V from 1 January 2028. This landmark decision marks a turning point in maritime digitalization and paves the way for global adoption of VDES as the backbone for digital services on the ship’s bridge.

Lars Moltsen, CEO of Sternula, said, "Space Norway is a true VDES pioneer and was the first satellite operator to launch a VDES satellite, and we are excited to sign this satellite VDES network access agreement with them. Sternula is building a global AIS 2.0 network of networks for trusted data exchange in the maritime domain, where we want to make sure that all available infrastructures will be used to do good for maritime safety and efficiency.

“We have been working with Sternula as partner on several projects over the last few years. Sternula and Space Norway complement each other well in the satellite VDES market since we have different approach to satellite VDES capacity building. This is a strength in our collaboration. Space Norway is delighted to enter into to this satellite VDES network access agreement that will expand our customer base and broaden our

global reach as a provider of satellite VDES capacity.” – Marte Kalveland, Director for Earth Observation and Innovation at Space Norway

The agreement also opens the door for further interconnection with other satellite VDES operators, paving the way for a global network of networks that fosters robustness, interoperability, and resilience.

About Sternula

Sternula was founded in 2019, with the mission of providing trusted connectivity for ship operations using AIS 2.0 (VDES and related technologies). We want to establish the world's largest integrated satellite and coastal network for maritime digital services.

Sternula is working to make global, real-time AIS 2.0 connectivity a reality, taking a lead in technology development and standardization, and supporting the maritime industry's transition to digital operations while contributing to enhanced safety, sustainability, and operational excellence.

The company plays an active role in the global development and standardization of VDES, collaborating closely with maritime stakeholders and international organizations such as IALA, IMO, and ITU.

For more information, please contact:

Lars Moltsen
CEO, Sternula
Phone number: (+45) 25 21 46 35
Email: lars@sternula.com

About Space Norway

Space Norway is Northern Europe's leading satellite operator and a key player in the European space industry.

The company provides advanced and reliable satellite solutions to governments, public and defence sectors, commercial maritime, land-based industries, and major broadcasters.

The utilization of hybrid infrastructure, comprising satellites, teleports, fibre networks, and subsea cables, enables Space Norway to deliver critical connectivity services across Europe, the Arctic, Antarctic, the Middle East, and Africa.

With industry-leading expertise, agility, and a commitment to excellence, Space Norway remains at the forefront of innovation. An important objective is to harness space for security, research and development - enriching life and expanding possibilities.

As a state-owned company, Space Norway ensures Norway's and allies' secure and absolute operational control over both space assets and ground infrastructure. Its established partnerships with defence authorities ensure effective integration with Norwegian and allied military operations, resulting in robust, sovereign coverage unmatched in the northern European space sector.

With decades of experience supporting critical national and international needs, the company has built a reputation for cost-effective, reliable, resilient, and mission-driven solutions tailored to the world's most demanding maritime environments.

Space Norway. Space for More.

Learn more about Space Norway by visiting spacenorway.com
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For more information, please contact:

Trude Larstad

Director, Communication and Governmental Contact

Phone number (+47) 936 67 742

Email: trude.larstad@spacenorway.com