

PRESS RELEASE

Sternula and TST Corporation Form Joint Venture, *Sternula Japan*, to Boost the Roll-Out of VDES in Japan

Sternula and TST Corporation are pleased to share the launch of *Sternula Japan*, a new joint venture designed to meet the growing demand for advanced maritime digitalization in Japan. This partnership marks a significant step forward in unlocking the potential of VDES (VHF Data Exchange System) technology in the region.

Since 2022, the collaboration between Sternula and TST Corporation has been delivering tangible results and paving the way for a digital revolution in the maritime domain. TST Corporation brings extensive expertise in marine operations, including port VTS services, and AIS coastal network operations. When combined with Sternula's leadership in end-to-end VDES and MMS (Maritime Messaging Service), the joint venture will constitute a unique and world-leading entity to bring the best technology in play across continents.

Sternula has been active within the Asian market for several years, and Sternula Japan is established to better serve our customers in Japan and the wider Asian region. It's also a gate for efficient coordination of technological development, which will help to ensure that VDES-based solutions set up in Europe and Asia will follow and interpret global standards in the same way.

Lars Moltsen, CEO and Co-Founder of Sternula, said: "The launch of Sternula Japan is a major milestone in our journey to bring VDES innovation to the maritime world. By joining forces with TST Corporation, we are combining deep maritime industry insights and local presence in Japan with advanced satellite technology to meet the specific needs of the Japanese market. I am really looking forward to having a platform that will enable us to be much closer to our customers in Japan."

Koichi Nishimura, President and Representative Director of Sternula Japan, said: "The launch of Sternula Japan is a pivotal moment for TST, significantly advancing our mission to innovate Japan's maritime sector. This joint venture strategically combines Sternula's world-leading VDES and satellite technology expertise with our profound understanding of the Japanese

maritime landscape. This powerful synergy allows us to deliver cutting-edge communication solutions precisely tailored to the charge in bringing this advanced capability to our customers, thereby driving the digital transformation of maritime operations across Japan."

About Sternula

Sternula was founded in 2019, following the allocation of VDE-SAT radio spectrum at the ITU World Radio Conference. The company aims to provide trusted connectivity for ship operations and is leading the implementation of AIS 2.0 (VDES and related technologies) to establish the world's largest integrated satellite and coastal network for maritime digital services. Sternula is working to make global, real-time VDES connectivity a reality, 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.

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About TST Corporation

TST is an information service company specializing in the maritime and port industries in Japan. TST's Maritime Information business consists of two domains: Port Management Service and Information Service/Solution. The company operates the port VTS at 28 major and local ports under contract with the port authorities. The vessel information service for maritime/logistics users is widely used by government agencies and companies involved in marine transportation, port cargo handling, maritime safety, port management, and marine construction.

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