



## India to deploy satellite maritime safety

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India is setting up a new satellite-based information system using the Inmarsat network to enable vessel tracking for maritime security and also to permit faster search and rescue of vessels along its coastline.

The timely move by India brings it into line with latest maritime security guidelines of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

India - a signatory to SOLAS - expects the long-range identification and tracking of ships (LRIT) operated via Inmarsat's network to be deployed by November 2008, in line with the IMO requirement that SOLAS signatories activate the system by 31 December, 2008.

### **Proven capabilities**

The new system will track vessels travelling along India's coastline, including 5,000 foreign ships, using Inmarsat C and Mini C .

The system will track all SOLAS vessels over 300 gross tonnes, up to 1,000 nautical miles (1,852 km) from the Indian coastline.

Inmarsat head of maritime safety services Brian Mullan said: "This welcome announcement by India further reinforces what has been accepted by many countries already, that Inmarsat C and Mini C provide the technology of choice when it comes to maritime security and safety.

"Inmarsat C has been the core provider of distress and safety for the IMO Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) for all deep-sea SOLAS vessels, for more than 10 years. LRIT is a natural extension of these well-proven capabilities."

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Article from Inmarsat:

<http://www.inmarsat.com/Services/Maritime/News/00023971.aspx?language=EN&textonly=False>

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