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**NEWSFLASH**

## **Hughes Europe extends maritime Ku-band satellite capability with Global Maritime Communications**

*Joint broadband development builds on existing success of 'Force-X' offering – targets mid-size yacht market – new three-year contract*

**Milton Keynes, UK, 26 April 2010:** Working with Global Maritime Communications, specialists in providing merchant and private vessels with high quality Ku-band satellite communications, Hughes Europe has developed a new VSAT-based offering targeted at the mid-size yacht market.

“People on the move today, whether travelling by land, sea or air, demand access to high quality mobile communications, even in the remotest locations,” says Andreas Evans of Global Maritime Communications. “In response, with our established Force1 – Force 5 solutions based on Hughes’ market-leading satellite technology, those onboard cargo ships, tankers, fishing vessels, cruise ships or large yachts can access email, browse the Internet and conduct online business with consistent broadband connectivity, in what is a frequently challenging communications environment.”

Evans is delighted with the success of the working relationship with Hughes Europe to-date in this competitive market. “And, as a result of this new joint technology initiative incorporating smaller, lighter satellite dishes, we will be able to extend this communications service to the important mid-size yacht market,” he says.

The new Mini-Force-X solution is now on sale, following the completion of successful tests to include TV and video-conferencing as part of the broader voice and data communications offering.

Evans confirms: “Today’s market is demanding high-quality location-agnostic communications, whether on boat, plane or train. In response, owners who want to stay in touch, whether for business or social purposes, will for the first time be able to benefit from consistent and cost-effective communications - wherever they are.”

For Christopher Britton, CEO, Hughes Europe, the new three-year contract with Global Maritime Communications represents an important step forward in the company’s drive to extend the reach of its satellite broadband capability. “This is an important example of how, in collaborating with an established partner, we have identified a new market opportunity and supported them in developing a highly cost-effective solution.”

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**About Hughes Network Systems, Ltd.**

Hughes Network Systems, Ltd. is one of the subsidiaries comprising Hughes Europe, the operating and sales organization in the European market for Hughes. Other subsidiaries are located in Germany and Italy. Utilizing its satellite hub earth station and network operations center in Griesheim, Germany, Hughes Europe provides HughesNet® broadband managed network solutions to large enterprises, government organizations, and small businesses throughout the continent, both directly and through a growing family of value-added service providers. For additional information, please visit [www.hugheseurope.com](http://www.hugheseurope.com).

**About Hughes Network Systems**

Hughes Network Systems, LLC is the global leader in providing broadband satellite networks and services for large enterprises, governments, small businesses, and consumers. HughesNet encompasses all broadband solutions and managed services from Hughes, bridging the best of satellite and terrestrial technologies. Its broadband satellite products are based on global standards approved by the TIA, ETSI and ITU standards organisations, including IPoS/DVB-S2, RSM-A and GMR-1. To date, Hughes has shipped more than 1.9 million systems to customers in over 100 countries.

Headquartered outside Washington, D.C., in Germantown, Maryland, USA, Hughes maintains sales and support offices worldwide. Hughes is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hughes Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: HUGH). For additional information, please visit [www.hughes.com](http://www.hughes.com).

**For more information**

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