

# Iridium® GMDSS FAQs

*Real choice is on the horizon. Learn more below.*



## What is the difference between Iridium GMDSS and Inmarsat GMDSS?

Iridium GMDSS will offer coverage, capability, and cost advantages over the existing option, providing mariners with enhanced safety at sea never before possible. Iridium GMDSS will be the first and only GMDSS solution to offer truly global coverage, including above and below the 65th parallel, enhancing safety at sea and offering reliable coverage where Inmarsat does not.

All Iridium Connected® GMDSS terminals will come standard with functionality for all satellite GMDSS services, and will initiate both Distress Alert and Safety Voice quickly with the press of just one button; followed by a Relay Alert from the MRCC to surrounding vessels and authorities. Marine Safety Information (MSI) will also be provided.

## Why is Iridium working to offer GMDSS services?

Over the past 15 years, Iridium and its Value-Added Manufacturers have built an impressive track record providing global safety and security to mariners everywhere. Today, Iridium equipment is already used on 50,000 vessels around the world. The Iridium network is resilient, robust, and already a trusted provider of safety and security services in the maritime market, and the addition of Iridium GMDSS services will allow mariners to feel truly safer anywhere at sea.

## No other company has been able to provide this service. How do I know that Iridium is reliable?

More than 1.4 million people, organizations, and things rely on Iridium to provide critical communications all over the world. Iridium's crosslinked mesh architecture creates a web of coverage encompassing 100% of the planet from Low Earth Orbit, providing low-latency, weather resilient services unlike any other satellite provider.

As Iridium developed its GMDSS service, it underwent a multi-year process that included strict reviews and testing protocols, multiple panels of experts, and examinations to obtain Recognition from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and a Letter of Compliance from IMO's GMDSS regulator, the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO). Furthermore, IMSO conducts quarterly examinations of Iridium's operations to ensure that they continue to be in compliance with the IMO requirements.

## What other maritime safety services does Iridium offer?

Iridium and its partners are committed to providing global safety and security to mariners everywhere. Today, Iridium Connected equipment is already used on 50,000 vessels around the world for non-GMDSS safety and security purposes including Ship Security Alert System (SSAS), Long-Range Identification Tracking (LRIT), Search & Rescue (SAR), Fisheries VMS & Catch Reporting, Emissions Monitoring (MRV), E-Navigation, Anti-Piracy & Citadel Solutions, and Ice Navigation.

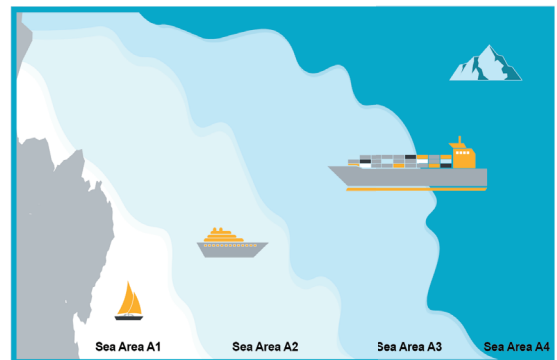
To learn more about Iridium maritime safety solutions, please visit [www.iridium.com/solutions/maritime/safety](http://www.iridium.com/solutions/maritime/safety)

## Where do Iridium GMDSS services work?

Iridium will provide unprecedented coverage by enabling GMDSS satellite services around the entire globe, including over the Arctic and Antarctic waters in Sea Area A4, even in adverse weather.

**To learn more or find an Iridium GMDSS service provider, please visit [www.iridium.com/GMDSS](http://www.iridium.com/GMDSS)**

### Iridium® GMDSS Coverage



**Iridium GMDSS will offer coverage, capability, and cost advantages over the existing option, providing safety at sea like never before.**

## How much does Iridium GMDSS cost?

Iridium GMDSS distress services are available at no charge to subscribers. There are a number of commercial plans available to cover standard calling and data communications through Iridium Connected equipment, including GMDSS terminals. Please contact an Iridium GMDSS service provider to learn more.

## Do standard Iridium voice and data services work during a distress call?

As required by the IMO, commercial services are "pre-empted" by Priority GMDSS traffic, meaning your distress call will take priority over other voice and data services. This is done by design to ensure the safety of your crew and vessel.

## Is there a list of certified Iridium GMDSS service providers?

Approved Iridium GMDSS Service Providers can be found at [www.iridium.com/gmdss](http://www.iridium.com/gmdss).

## What is the added benefit of Iridium GMDSS for non-SOLAS vessels?

The Iridium network is a trusted provider of safety and security services to more than 50,000 vessels around the world (80 percent of which are non-SOLAS). Many smaller, non-SOLAS vessels rely on GMDSS and other safety services to allow their crews to feel truly safe anywhere at sea.

Iridium GMDSS allows ships to quickly send definitive location and identification information to a Rescue Coordination Centers (RCC) and speak to an RCC operator to share key distress information, within 30 seconds of pressing the red distress button. Additionally, Iridium GMDSS includes Iridium SafetyCast<sup>SM</sup>, which delivers important navigational and meteorological information to vessels with Iridium onboard, enabling proactive safety measures. Iridium's global GMDSS services could have a significant effect on the success of a Search and Rescue operation.

## Who manufactures Iridium GMDSS terminals?

Lars Thrane is manufacturing the first Iridium Connected GMDSS terminal, LT-3100S. Iridium Certus maritime equipment manufacturers Cobham, Thales, and Intellian are currently working with Iridium to develop auxiliary equipment for their existing broadband terminals to offer GMDSS through the Iridium Certus platform.

## Are Iridium GMDSS services only available in English?

The default for GMDSS services is the international maritime language "Seaspeak", which is based on English. However, Iridium GMDSS users can select a specific Rescue Coordination Center from their own region or country for all emergency communications, regardless of vessel location. If the on-board coordinators cannot speak English or Seaspeak, this is recommended.

## What type of information is sent over Iridium SafetyCast<sup>SM</sup>?

Maritime Safety Information (MSI) is transmitted through an Enhanced Group Call (EGC) service called Iridium SafetyCast. The main type of information broadcast through this service is navigational and meteorological information and warnings. Depending on location, additional information, such as anti-piracy and ice reports, may be available. RCCs can also broadcast safety-related information through Iridium SafetyCast.

## Will Iridium GMDSS offer a maritime broadcasting service like Inmarsat's Fleetnet?

In addition to supporting all three satellite GMDSS services in one terminal, Iridium Connected GMDSS equipment enables other safety and non-safety capabilities including shore-to-ship distress calling, maritime assistance, and standard calling and messaging (SMS).



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Installation of the Iridium Connected LT-3100S GMDSS by Lars Thrane.



Iridium Connected GMDSS equipment provides important voice and data capabilities anywhere in the world.