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KVH for Hamburger Lloyd's tankers

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Hamburg-based RHL Hamburger Lloyd Tanker has chosen KVH Industries for its mini-VSAT broadband satellite communications solution for its tanker fleet.

Twelve oil and chemical tankers will be outfitted with KVH's TracPhone V7-IP satellite antenna systems in the next month, with a potential for 16 additional container vessels to receive KVH systems.

"We needed a solution for the growing bandwidth usage on board our vessels, for operational tasks, such as fuel consumption monitoring and electronic chart updates and also for crew access to Internet," said Peter Fromming, RHL Hamburger Lloyd Tanker's fleet director. "KVH provides a reliable satellite communications solution with global coverage and also the on board network management that is essential for controlling access on board and staying within budget. We regard the KVH systems as having the most suitable airtime plans and return on investment for our needs."

The KVH systems will be installed on the 'safety chemical oil tanker (SCOT) 8000s' types, which are considered environmentally friendly due to their advanced design to minimise the risk of a spill.

RHL Hamburger Lloyd Tanker was heavily involved in the design and construction of the SCOT 8000 tankers, which are propelled and manoeuvred by two separate drive systems and are built with a double hull. The tankers have a capacity of 8,000 tonnes.

"RHL Hamburger Lloyd Tanker is known as a leader and innovator with its involvement in the SCOT 8000 tankers and they are showing forward thinking again by choosing KVH's end-to-end solution for on board management and connectivity," said Brent Bruun, executive vice president of KVH's Mobile Broadband Group. "We are excited about the opportunity to work with them to provide a world-class maritime broadband solution for their vessels."

On board network management is increasingly important for commercial vessels, where there is a need to manage demand for broadband and ensure that operational data usage is prioritised.

Vessel operators also face the challenge of complying with industry regulations such as MLC-2006, which was implemented last year and requires operators to provide crew welfare in the form of access to satellite phone and Internet services, the company said.