

## Isle of Man sets up LRIT data centre

Wednesday 14 May 2008

THE Isle of Man Ship Registry has appointed Pole Star Space Applications as its national Long-Range Identification and Tracking data centre administrator and application service provider, writes Felicity Landon.

The appointment makes the Isle of Man the third maritime administration to establish an LRIT data centre, said registry director Dick Welsh. It will ensure that the registry is able to respond to Solas amendments well ahead of the target date of December 31 this year.

Isle of Man Trade and Industry Minister David Cretney said: "We are proud to have taken this proactive step of being one of the first governments to make a firm financial commitment to LRIT."

The cost of setting up the data centre and the daily position reports will be met by the Manx government. Testing will start shortly, said Mr Welsh, with the intention of having all vessels registered in the Isle of Man fully compliant by January 1, 2009.

"Isle of Man registered vessels to which the LRIT regulation applies will work with Pole Star directly to ensure their six-hourly reports are received and forwarded, as required, to the International Data Exchange," he said. "In this manner we will be well-placed to respond to our obligations for LRIT."

Mr Welsh said there had been a number of options to ensuring compliance, including joining the European Union Co-operative Data Centre.

"However, with concerns that the EU may not have its CDC in place until at least the third quarter of 2009, we were keen to offer our own shipowners the security and confidence of compliance with this regulation by December 31."

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Article from Lloyd's List:

[www.lloydslist.com/art/1210468975531](http://www.lloydslist.com/art/1210468975531)

Published: 14/05/2008 GMT

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