



National Rollout of Vessel Communication and Support System for 1 lakh marine fishing vessels as part of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Scheme – a project of Department of Fisheries (DoF)

NSIL is the implementing agency for the national rollout of this project

Bengaluru, September 03: National rollout of Vessel Communication and Support System, which aims to install nearly 1 lakh MSS Terminals (Xponders) on mechanized and motorized fishing vessels in a phased manner, has been progressing successfully. NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India (GoI) company under Department of Space (DoS) and the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been spearheading this ambitious project on behalf of the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of India, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. This initiative focuses on establishing a dedicated Mobile-Satellite Services (MSS) network for Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) of nearly 1 Lakh fishing vessels across 9 coastal states and 4 Union Territories of India.

MSS technology developed indigenously by Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO has been effectively put into use by providing space-based solutions to the fishermen by NSIL. These MSS terminals are equipped with built-in Wi-Fi/Bluetooth transceivers, enabling communication with mobile phones through an accompanying app. This app, designed to support local languages, offers features such as predefined SOS alerts, weather updates, potential fishing zone information, harbour details, and drop-pin functionality. The user network management system provides centralized monitoring capabilities, including boat tracking, messaging, report generation, trip declaration, and boat survey and license management. This initiative aims to enhance the safety and security of fishermen, particularly along maritime borders, while also addressing national security concerns related to threats at sea. By facilitating two-way communication at sea, the project ensures fishermen safety and aids rescue operations, further contributing to the "blue economy."

NSIL has shortlisted and engaged 3 Indian private companies viz. M/s Saankhya Labs Pvt Ltd, M/s Avantel Ltd, and M/s Accord Software & Systems Pvt Ltd for supply and installation of Xponders.

Honourable Prime Minister of India has officially launched the national rollout of the Vessel Communication and Support System in Maharashtra on August 30, 2024.

As on date, nearly 400 plus Xponders have been successfully installed across various states and the remaining are proposed to be installed in the coming months. The project also includes establishment of a ground station with hub baseband systems, control and monitoring stations, and the organization of satellite bandwidth to operate the Pan India satcom network.

The space segment capacity requirements for this project are currently being met by GSAT-6 satellite. Consequent to the end of service of GSAT-6, the follow-on satellite GSAT-N3 (NSIL's 3rd demand driven communication satellite), would provide continuity of services to the vessel communication and support system.