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Focus: Internet Afloat With 4G Connect Pro



4G Connect is a new 2G/3G/4G (LTE) internet access solution to get internet onboard. It utilises the latest MIMO technology with dual antennas for fast, long range access and incorporates a full function wifi router so multiple devices can connect wirelessly. There's also a wired LAN port and WAN port – for connection to high power wifi devices or other sources of internet data.

Operation is simple – Insert a SIM, turn on, connect to the password protected wifi hotspot that 4G Connect creates and your device is online.

Our iKommunicate can connect too, allowing NMEA 0183 and NMEA 2000 navigation data to be available on the wifi network for powerful app based navigation on iPads and tablets. Find out in this issue of Digital Update how to add vessel video monitoring with popular Arlo consumer cameras.

Find out how to: Integrate Arlo cameras with 4G Connect Pro for a powerful boat monitoring solution



DIGITAL UPDATE May 2020

This issue focuses on solutions and 3rd party product integration NEW Solutions! 4G Connect and Arlo Cameras for boat monitoring NEW Solutions! Integrate Icom VHFs with Digital Yacht AIS transponders NEW Solutions! PC Navigation just got better with Aqua Compact Pro+ PC

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4G Connect & Boat Monitoring With An Arlo Security Camera System

Our 4G Connect Pro has been one of the hottest products this year – providing fast, 4G internet connectivity on board for browsing, weather, email, movies, entertainment etc. We've seen users with up to 20NM offshore connectivity. Once you have internet on board, your boat opens up to a realm of other opportunities.

We've also been asked by many boaters: "What's an easy solution for boat video monitoring?"

There are lots of dedicated (and expensive) marine camera solutions which could connect to the 4G Connect network but there's also the simple and popular Arlo home based system which can be utilised. Arlo started life as part of Netgear but became a stand alone listed company back in 2018. Their products can be bought from Amazon, Best Buy etc.



Arlo cameras are wireless and include movement detectors and night vision capability backed up with cloud storage of video

4G Connect Pro offers ranges up to 20NM offshore

The system comprises small, waterproof, battery powered cameras that connect to an Arlo hub via a wireless link. It means you don't have to run wires around the boat or even find 12V power and you can position the camera in different locations as you need to. Multiple cameras are also supported. Arlo says the cameras are waterproof but we're not convinced they are "marine grade" waterproof – that said you probably want to monitor the inside or cockpit areas of the boat and they will likely be fine with a bit of protection. They come with a mounting base which can probably be adapted for any installation by a competent DIY boater.

Just install the Arlo base near our 4G Pro and connect via an ethernet cable direct to the LAN port provided on the 4G Pro modem unit. There's a simple set up routine which I'd recommend running at home so your unit is ready to plug in with the latest updates when you're on board. This sets up a cloud account so you can monitor the cameras and pairs the cameras with the Arlo base. Apps are available for mobile devices and the cameras can be set to detect movement, record and upload to the cloud as well as providing you with an alert. The system can be set to only be active when you move away from the boat. Video can also be stored on a local USB storage stick as the cloud recordings have a limit of 7 days with the free service. It's a slick consumer solution which may meet the needs of many boaters and a great addition to 4G Connect's capabilities.

As a reminder, 4G Connect is Digital Yacht's 4G connectivity product bringing fast, cellular based internet to your boat. The system uses a technology called MIMO which requires multiple antennas to get range and speed. The Pro model ships with two, very high quality custom antennas, complete with mounting bases and 7m cable assemblies. 10m and 20m cabling options are also available. It's SIM free so will take any operators SIM card so you're not tied to a particular network. Experience has shown Vodafone is one of the best maritime networks in Europe and T-Mobile and AT&T in the US.





A Powerful AIS-VHF System Combination With Best In Class Technology



Latest Class B+ AIS transmit capability

The AIT2500 is Digital Yacht's latest SOTDMA 5W Class B+ AIS transponder - this offers 2.5x transmit power of regular Class B plus a more frequent position update based on the speed of the vessel. Just like a commercial Class A transponder, SOTDMA technology also guarantees a transmission slot in areas of high AIS traffic.

The Icom M506 is an AIS ready VHF which is normally supplied with an internal AIS receiver. Many boaters want AIS transmission capability too and the AIT2500 makes the perfect partner, upgrading the system to a full Class B+ 5W AIS transponder while integrating with the Icom VHF for easy DSC call capability to AIS targets and sharing AIS and GPS data via the NMEA 2000 backbone.

Thanks to NMEA 2000 connectivity, installation is simple. The addition of the Digital Yacht SPL2000 AIS-VHF antenna splitter also allows sharing of the VHF antenna so there's no need for a 2nd antenna.

No requirement for a 2nd VHF antenna

This solution includes the patented ZeroLoss SPL2000 VHF-AIS antenna splitter allowing the main VHF antenna to be shared with the VHF and with the AIT2500. You don't need to install a 2nd VHF antenna which saves time and cost while preserving excellent performance thanks to the ZeroLoss technology

Full integration & interface with any system

The AIT2500 has NMEA 0183 and NMEA 2000 interfaces so will integrate with plotters and MFDs too. There's also USB for a PC or MAC and you can easily connect to a tablet or iPad for app navigation using the optional NavLink NMEA 2000 wireless gateway.

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Key Features:

- Add Class B+ AIS transponder capability to your Icom M506/M605 VHF
- Send and receive AIS data see and BE SEEN
- Latest SOTDMA 5W technology ideal for high speed vessels
- Instigate a DSC call from targets viewed on the VHF
- Optional wireless interface for iPad and tablet navigation
- Great value solution with no need for a second VHF antenna with SPL2000 splitter

Great value & better features than a single box solution

Some manufacturers are now offering a VHF with integrated Class B transponder. However, a one box solution is a compromise. Digital Yacht & Icom are leaders in their respective technologies. The current generation of combination products don't use our latest SOTDMA 5W technology and also don't integrate a splitter - requiring extra cost and efforts of installing a 2nd VHF antenna. With a one box solution, upgrades to any part are more difficult and multiple products make for a more reliable solution - important for life saving communications technology.

Find out more at www.digitalyacht.co.uk





New Intel 10th Generation i7 Processor

Our Aqua Compact Pro+ now comes with Intel's latest 10th generation i7 processor. This offers phenominal processing power with 6 internal cores, 12 threads, 12MB on board cache and clock speeds of 1.1 to 4.7GHz. Despite this, average power consumption is around 25W keeping battery drain to a minimum.

The new Aqua Compact Pro+ now has a larger, rugged solid state hard drive too - 480GB and 8GB of fast DDR4 RAM. In terms of connectivity, there are 4 USB 3.1 ports and an audio headset connector. There's a built in SD card slot - great for use with our SmarterTrack navigation software and Navionics data cards.

The new unit supports up to 3 displays via a dedicated HDMI connector and also a Thunderbolt/USB C connector which can support displays with an appropriate cable. If a third display is required, an external 3rd party USB C video splitter can be added. 7.1 multichannel digital audio is supported over these display connections too so it's ideal as an on board media entertainment centre.



Network connectivity is provided by a wired gigabit port as well as the latest AX200 wifi card which supports 802.11ax protocols (2.4 and 5GHz with up to 3x bandwidth) and has built in Bluetooth 5 for easy connectivity.

The Aqua Pro+ has found markets in commercial fishing where users want charting, radar and bathmetry/sonar overlays which demand fast 3D graphics. The Aqua Compact Pro+ is optimised for Maxsea TimeZero systems. We are also seeing many ocean racing yachts opt for these systems for the best in class animated weather routing displays. The new Aqua Compact Pro+ will be available from mid May and will also be supplied with an external voltage stabiliser to ensure 100% reliability on low voltage systems which are affected by volt drops. It can now operate down to 8V DC. While average power consumption is just 25W, it should be remembered that peek current can run at 10-15A momentarily.



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