



Failsafe Communications – For Safety At Sea

CUSTOMER: The MY New Master, a 45 m super-yacht built in 2001, based in Lavagna, Italy

CHALLENGE: Deliver failsafe and top-quality satellite communications services at sea

SOLUTION: The Nera F77, the flagship of the Nera Fleet portfolio of maritime satellite communications terminals

BENEFIT: Failsafe, always-on data, voice, fax and safety applications; unsurpassed coverage via the Inmarsat satellite network



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CAPTAIN GINO BELLOMO, MY NEW MASTER

The power and immensity of the world’s oceans can dwarf even the greatest of super-yachts and the most powerful of ship engines. So every component of an ocean-going vessel – from the hull to the galley – has to be robust enough to withstand the ocean’s forces.

This applies not the least to the communications system onboard. Despite technology becoming ever more sophisticated and refined, a vessel still needs robustness.

For a superyacht like the 522-ton **MY New Master**, it is therefore essential that the communications system tolerates the roughest conditions at sea and performs optimally in all situations. The advanced communications services required by the vessel’s captain and guests are delivered by a **Nera F77** satellite communications terminal.

A Floating Luxury Apartment

The MY New Master was built by the renowned shipyard Baglietto in La Spezia, Italy, in 2001. The 45-metre, 522-ton superyacht's four decks house 12 beds, two spacious living rooms, a large kitchen, eight bathrooms and an outdoor Jacuzzi.

The high standard onboard makes the yacht a comfortable residence, easily taking the owner and family from one port to another in the Mediterranean. In the main season from April to October, the MY New Master typically covers some 3,000 nautical miles, visiting marinas in Italy, Spain, Greece and Turkey.

This sets strict requirements for the communications solution onboard. The superyacht needs to be able to communicate from any location, whether portside or in the middle of the ocean. And the captain has to be able to rely one hundred percent on the equipment. If anything else fails at sea, the communications equipment is the "lifeline" for contacting onshore support and for receiving information.

Stops for service or repair of the communications equipment would mean diverting to another harbour; wasting time, taking the vessel out of route and spoiling the guest's time onboard.

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Moreover, the Nera satellite terminals use the Inmarsat satellite communications network, which provides the best available coverage for maritime communications services.

Safety At Sea

The mast-mounted version of the Nera F77 antenna is installed on the top deck to ensure free line of sight to the satellite at all times. The antenna is connected to the main communications unit on the bridge, which in turn connects to the two computers onboard, one on the bridge and another in the owner's office on the main deck. The Nera F77 main communications unit is also connected to the fax machine and the telephone handset on the bridge, as well as the distress unit.

The safety functionality on the Nera F77 means that the entire communications system can be overruled by rescue authorities anywhere in the world in case of an emergency.

Weighing more than 300 tonnes, the MY New Master is required under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) to be fitted with equipment, such as the Nera F77, that ensures automated alerting of shore-based communication and rescue authorities, in addition to ships in the immediate vicinity, in the event of a marine distress. The safety functionality on the Nera



The Captain's Specifications

When looking for a data communications platform for the MY New Master, the captain received bids from a variety of satellite communications providers. On paper, his specifications were straightforward: he needed a communications system that was failsafe and provided coverage on every inch of the routes taken by the MY New Master.

Captain Gino Bellomo was already a customer of Compagnia Generale di Telemar, a global distributor and integrator of satellite communications systems, and used to the company's first-rate service and high-quality products. Telemar supplies Nera's complete range of maritime satellite communications terminals and had already provided the MY New Master with the Nera WorldPhone. Hence, captain Bellomo knew what to expect from Nera equipment.

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In Frequent Use

With voice delivered over the Nera WorldPhone, the Nera F77 onboard the MY New Master is primarily used for data applications. The captain uses it regularly to receive weather information and to aid navigation. The terminal also transmits e-mail when the superyacht is outside the harbour area.

The Mobile Packet Data Service delivered over the Nera F77 gives the captain the option of leaving the terminal permanently connected to the Internet while only paying for the actual amount of data uploaded or downloaded. Alternatively, he can use the ISDN service, which will provide dedicated capacity.

Moreover, guests use the Nera F77 to transmit photographs and video clips back home. On a typical day onboard, the system is in use for several hours.

Currently transmitting at 64 kbps, the captain is looking to upgrade to the new 128 kbps software in the near future. With no change of hardware required and the software available for download via the Internet, doubling the speed of the Nera F77 is a simple procedure.

Making Life at Sea Easy

Having used the Nera F77 for over two years, captain Bellomo has become accustomed to the superior performance delivered by the system. "The Nera terminal is the one piece of equipment that has never given me any problems. It has never left me stranded," he testifies. He is particularly impressed by the tracking of the antenna. "Whereas the satellite television antenna onboard will lose the signal from time to time, this has never occurred with the Nera terminal."

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A fully-owned subsidiary of Nera, Nera SatCom is the chief supplier of products and solutions for the Inmarsat satellite system and a leading manufacturer of equipment based on the DVB-RCS broadband via satellite standard.

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