

Watching over Asia's Coasts

By Benjamin Murat-Prats, Asia Business Development Manager, SIGNALIS

SIGNALIS is a worldwide leader in maritime safety and security developing solutions for Vessel Traffic Services, coastal surveillance and critical infrastructure monitoring. With customers such as Port Authorities, oil & gas companies, coastguards and navies in more than 50 countries, SIGNALIS applications are used to monitor 45,000 kilometres of coastline around the globe.

Think of air traffic control, with hundreds of aircraft coming and going. We apply similar principles within the maritime domain. Our products are used to manage port areas, inner and outer harbours, sea lanes, and to monitor coastlines, displaying traffic in real-time via the integration of data from multiple sources. These range from the latest radar technology capable of perceiving very small objects such as swimmers and jet skis through to high-resolution video cameras, weather stations, Automatic Identification System and sonars.

Thanks to advanced information processing, the burden on system operators to constantly monitor every individual vessel can be reduced with the provision of intuitive software engines automatically informing of potential collision or suspicious navigation behaviour.



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SINGAPORE, THE REGIONAL HUB

After three decades of operation with regional offices in the Middle-East and China, SIGNALIS decided to complement its international footprint by opening an office in Singapore. We have some key references in the region such as the surveillance of the Straits of Malacca and the port of Kaohsiung. Trade via Southeast Asia's regional and international ports is thriving; as such, port productivity and coastal security are paramount in ensuring safe passage and expeditious vessel turnaround within the region.

Singapore is not only the world's second-busiest port but a centre of excellence for the maritime community in Asia. The Singaporean government is a driving force in encouraging innovation and investment in domains that will contribute to efficient and secured navigation within its Exclusive Economic Zone and beyond.

For SIGNALIS, this is a unique opportunity to further develop our customer relationships while benefiting from Singapore's dynamic environment to launch our latest innovations within the Southeast Asia market.

A REGION FULL OF CHALLENGES AT SEA

The sea dominates Southeast Asia, covering roughly 80% of its area. The growth of traffic in the region has brought about new challenges for ASEAN countries such as navigation safety, protection of large marine ecosystems and security threats. With more than 50,000 vessels carrying about one-quarter of the world's traded goods each year, the Strait of Malacca is a highway on the sea where authorities contend with piracy, smuggling and trafficking. Since 2004, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia

have launched coordinated actions to patrol major sea lanes. But successfully responding to security threats in this Strait will require further cooperation between those countries such as information-sharing mechanisms and tools to increase domain awareness.

SIGNALIS believes that ASEAN will adopt a multi-agency cooperation approach similar to Europe's where we delivered the nationwide SPATIONAV system to France. This multi-agency system is operated by commercial and security organisations, constantly exchanging information with systems of other European governments.

SIGNALIS's Singapore crew stands ready for this exciting voyage. **F**

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