

SMOOTH SAILING

Jan Langweg looks at how working with a versatile yacht management software system, built around a robust database improves the yacht's overall efficiency for the owner and crew

Superyachts are perceived as the height of luxury. Lucky guests and owners are often seen to be enjoying a relaxed week cruising the Mediterranean or enjoying an action-packed weekend of water sports and parties whilst visiting the most beautiful and remote places of our planet.

Many people don't realise what it takes behind the scenes to run a superyacht, there are many elements to operating a vessel successfully. To just name a few; the boat has to be in perfect condition, inside and out. Everything has to be accurately planned. The crew must be able to adapt instantly, if the owner changes their mind about something.

Superyachts are one of the most complex and technically advanced assets a person can own, therefore the use of proper systems and procedures on-board is vitally important. We talk to Jan Langweg, Customer Success & Product Manager for IDEA Data Solutions, to find out more.

How can yacht management software ensure such an important asset is correctly operated and maintained?

It all starts with a solid database, which is the backbone of the system. This database contains all major components of the vessel; from the main engines to safety equipment to the coffee machine, all aspects of operation are covered. Information is key and it's crucial to know about everything that is happening in real time, on board. The correct software solutions allow users to access and handle documentation effectively, whether that is information required by the interior department about crew



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and guests or important data for the master, such as validity of certificates.

What about maintenance capabilities of the system?

It is crucial that a vessel is properly maintained, in order to retain its value and to ensure it is ready to set sail straight away. Maintenance tasks can be performed on machinery equipment by the engineering department and should be triggered by an automated interface on the vessel's systems. Regular checks and rounds are also required by the deck department. It is also vital for the system to have stock control and purchasing capabilities, this function will also enable spare part handling. Tasks such as filling out forms, tracking inventory and performing rounds, can be completed and tracked using mobile devices, so look for a software provider who integrate a mobile app feature. This ensures that working with the chosen system is as convenient as possible for the crew.

An effective system should also provide the captain/master and department heads with the option to keep an eye on the bigger picture, with all relevant information summarised on one page. There should also be the option to share relevant information with the vessel's management, port state control and class and flag authorities.

To conclude, running an efficient vessel requires a stable but versatile system, which enables crew to effectively manage such a complex asset and provide a top-notch service to those on-board.

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