

Zetron Consoles Help Navigate the Busy Ports of Asia

Redmond, WA, U.S.A., June 26, 2013 –A state-of-the-art Zetron dispatch console system has recently upgraded operational communications at China’s Changjiang Three Gorges River Maritime Safety Administration (MSA). This expands and updates a Zetron system that was originally installed for the MSA in 2009-2010.

One of the engineering wonders of the modern world, the Three Gorges Dam is a hydroelectric dam that spans the Yangtze River in the Hubei province of China. The Chinese government regards the dam as a historic engineering, social and economic success, as well as a move toward limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Its enormous significance to the Chinese economy is often compared to the effect the Panama Canal had on commercial maritime traffic in the 20th Century.

Three Gorges Dam is also the world’s largest power station, with an installed capacity of 22,500 megawatts (MW). In addition to producing electricity, the dam has increased the Yangtze River’s shipping capacity and reduced the potential for floods downstream by providing flood storage space. Newly installed ship locks have increased river shipping from ten million to 100 million tonnes annually and cut transportation costs by almost 35 percent.

The navigation and management of shipping traffic through the gorges are overseen by Changjiang MSA. Because exports are the lifeline of the Chinese economy, and the gorges are notoriously dangerous to navigate, the MSA initially decided to install new technology that would help ensure a safe and efficient shipping environment. They made it a priority to install the best and most thoroughly proven communications equipment available. Following an in-depth analysis of global vendors, they chose Zetron in 2009-2010 to provide communication consoles for their vessel traffic services (VTS) system. The system was successfully deployed and proved to be highly reliable, flexible and user friendly. Due to China’s rapid economic growth, the required freight capacity increased sixfold in three years. As a result, the MSA’s VTS systems were expanded in late 2012. Because of their prior success, Zetron consoles were once again selected for this project.

“Zetron was first chosen when the MSA was looking for a vendor with demonstrated experience and quality in mission-critical voice systems for maritime communications,” said Mr. Zhou Meng Feng, of Yuanda Telecommunication, the company that provided systems integration for the project. “As shipping traffic and demands on existing systems have increased, it was only natural to upgrade using Zetron equipment, as the previously installed consoles proved to be very reliable. In addition, the flexible Zetron GUI [graphical user interface] not only allows the console screen to represent the agency’s work flow and operations, but it can be changed as business processes evolve.”

“China has become the world’s foremost exporter, and we are proud to be part of its phenomenal industrial growth,” said Ranjan Bhagat, Vice President and General Manager, Zetron Australasia. “In addition to this system, we have now successfully provided Zetron console systems for 14 different MSA’s in China, and we continue to be the provider of choice for harbour masters worldwide.”

About Zetron

For over 30 years, Zetron has been providing mission-critical communications solutions to customers in public safety, transportation, utilities, manufacturing, healthcare and business. With offices in the U.S.A., U.K., Australia and numerous field locations, Zetron supports a worldwide network of resellers, system integrators and distributors. This gives Zetron a global reach as well as a local presence in the regions it serves. Zetron is a wholly owned subsidiary of JVC Kenwood Corporation. For more information, visit: www.zetron.com.