



Case study

MAXIMISING SPACE MINIMISING WEIGHT

Why Brim Explorer chose Survitec
for Marine Evacuation Systems



Executive Summary

As one of Norway's fastest-growing maritime tourism operators, Brim Explorer has built its reputation on delivering low-impact, high-quality wildlife and nature experiences in some of the world's most challenging environments. Operating hybrid and electric vessels across Norway, including Arctic destinations above the Polar Circle and around Svalbard, a remote Norwegian archipelago, the company combines innovation, sustainability and passenger experience at the heart of its business model.

From their beginnings in 2018 Brim Explorer have trusted Survitec across their fleet. As survival technology experts we engineered a bespoke solution through build to shipyard and every new voyage experience. [Read more](#)

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Cont. Every vessel must maximise passenger capacity and their experience while maintaining the highest standards of maritime safety. For Brim Explorer, survival systems are not simply a compliance requirement; they are an integral part of vessel design, operational efficiency and customer confidence.

To support every 'silent experience at sea', Brim Explorer selected the SurvitecZodiac Small Inflatable Slide (SIS) Marine Evacuation System (MES). Today, all vessels carry two MES SIS systems, one port side and one starboard side, providing rapid evacuation capability, compact installation and efficient use of valuable onboard space.

As the fleet continues to grow, with the planned addition of two new trimarans, the partnership has Evolved - beyond equipment supply to pro-active and collaborative engagement, helping Brim Explorer Optimise vessel design, minimise operational downtime and support its' purpose and future vision

The Challenge

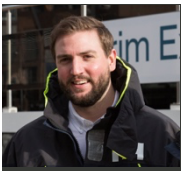
Brim Explorer operates in natural wildlife environments where reliability is a given, but weight constraints and sound impact are non-negotiable.

From whale-watching excursions in Northern Norway to expedition operations near Svalbard, vessels regularly operate in harsh weather conditions, cold temperatures and remote locations. At the same time, Brim's business model depends on creating exceptional passenger experiences aboard relatively compact vessels.

As the company grows, it faces a challenge familiar to many modern vessel operators:

How do you maximise passenger space and operational efficiency while ensuring robust evacuation capability?

Unlike traditional operators that retrofit existing vessels, Brim Explorer designs many of its boats specifically around electric and hybrid propulsion. This 'electric by design' philosophy means every kilogram and every square metre matters.



According to Brim Explorer's Co-founder and CTO, Espen Larsen-Hakkebo, 'weight and space efficiency were among the most important factors during the evaluation process for evacuation systems. The company compared multiple suppliers, assessing installation requirements, system weight, footprint and long-term servicing considerations'.

The Solution

Following a detailed evaluation, Brim Explorer selected the SurvitecZodiac MES SIS solution.

Each vessel is equipped with 2 x SurvitecZodiac Small Inflatable Slide (SIS) Marine Evacuation Systems.

- One installed on the port side. One installed on the starboard side. The MES SIS combines inflatable evacuation slides with large-capacity liferafts, enabling passengers to evacuate quickly and safely in an emergency.

For Brim Explorer, the decision came down to three key factors:

1. Weight Efficiency:

Weight was a critical consideration for vessels designed around energy efficiency and electric propulsion. Brim's team identified Survitec's solution as providing a robust and proven evacuation capability while offering a highly weight-efficient package. This enabled ship designers to preserve vessel performance without compromising safety.

2. Space Optimisation:

Passenger experience is central to Brim Explorer's business model. The company wanted to dedicate as much onboard space as possible to guests rather than equipment. Survitec's engineering team worked closely with the BE team during the design phase to identify optimal installation arrangements that would minimise the impact on passenger areas while maintaining full operational effectiveness.

3. Service Support:

Brim Explorer also evaluated the long-term service implications of each system. With vessels operating across multiple Norwegian locations, access to servicing and maintenance support was essential. The Survitec network of service facilities and regional support capability provided confidence that systems could be maintained efficiently throughout the vessel lifecycle.

'With Survitec we got a partner ready to grow with us as a ship owner, as well as solutions that fit our vessel profiles.' Espen Larsen-Hakkebo, Co-Founder Brim Explorer



Engineering collaboration

One of the most valuable aspects of the partnership has been the collaborative engineering approach between the two organisations.

Brim Explorer received direct access to Survitec's engineering expertise during the vessel design process. Rather than simply supplying equipment, Survitec's team reviewed vessel drawings, assessed installation options and helped identify the most effective configuration for each vessel.

As Brim's fleet evolved, the collaboration enabled further innovation.

Working together, the companies developed a solution that allowed liferaft canisters to be suspended above passenger gangways on the second deck rather than occupying valuable deck space. This approach reduced the impact on passenger areas while maintaining full deployment capability.

The result was a smarter integration of survival equipment into the vessel architecture, allowing Brim Explorer to continue to build the best passenger experiences without compromising safety requirements.



Safety as part of the passenger experience

For many operators, evacuation equipment remains largely invisible until needed.

Brim Explorer has taken a different approach.

The visibility of the MES system forms part of the company's onboard storytelling and safety culture. Crew members actively reference the liferaft installations during passenger safety briefings, explaining how the systems function and highlighting their capacity.

This creates a stronger connection between passengers and the vessel's safety features while reinforcing confidence in the operation.

The company also favours live demonstrations over pre-recorded safety videos, believing that personal interaction increases engagement and passenger attention during safety briefings. The visible placement of the liferaft systems complements this approach and contributes to a reassuring onboard environment.

For operations in Northern Norway and Arctic waters, where weather conditions can be challenging, that reassurance becomes particularly valuable.

Supporting operations in extreme environments

Brim Explorer's vessels regularly operate above the Arctic Circle, in some of the world's most demanding maritime environments.

The Survitec solution required no special modifications to operate effectively in these conditions.

The canopied liferafts provide appropriate protection for passengers, while additional survival equipment can be carried onboard where local regulations require it.

This capability gives Brim Explorer confidence that its evacuation systems are ready for deployment across the full range of operating conditions encountered throughout its operating network.

For Brim Explorer, the value of the relationship extends beyond equipment supply.

The company now has a proven evacuation solution that can be replicated across future vessel designs, allowing engineers to focus on innovation, sustainability and passenger experience with confidence that safety requirements are already addressed.



Minimising downtime through lifecycle support

As Brim Explorer has grown, vessel availability has become increasingly important.

In the company's early years, removing liferafts for servicing could result in vessels being unavailable for several days. As operations expanded to year-round activity, this level of downtime became increasingly difficult to accommodate.

To address this challenge, Brim invested in an exchange pool arrangement that allows serviced equipment to be swapped rapidly, reducing downtime dramatically. What once required several days can now be completed in a matter of hours.

Regular planning meetings with Survitec further support this process, helping both organisations coordinate servicing schedules, deployment tests and maintenance activities around operational requirements.

Brim Explorer also highlights the value of Survitec's digital learning platform, which provides greater flexibility when training crew members on evacuation procedures and equipment operation.



Supporting future growth

Brim Explorer has ambitious plans.

The company has achieved approximately 50% year-on-year growth since launch and is targeting a fleet of ten fully electric vessels by 2030. New trimaran vessels are already under construction, further expanding passenger capacity and operational reach.

As passenger numbers increase, evacuation requirements become more complex.

During the design of its newest trimarans, Brim worked closely with Survitec to identify the most effective combination of liferaft capacity and servicing arrangements.

Through planning and engineering support, the organisations developed a solution that met capacity requirements while leveraging Brim's existing exchange pool investment **and reducing overall lifecycle costs while also minimising vessel downtime** and enabling operations to run all year-round.

Conclusion

For Brim Explorer, safe growth depends on balancing sustainability, passenger experience and operational efficiency.

The SurvitecZodiac MES SIS solution has helped the company achieve that balance by delivering a lightweight, space-efficient and proven evacuation system supported by engineering expertise, responsive servicing and ongoing training support.

As Brim Explorer continues its journey towards a fully electric fleet, the partnership demonstrates how survival technology can do more than meet compliance requirements - it can become a strategic enabler of innovation, operational resilience and long-term growth.

We are pioneers of Survival Technology.

Our wearable survival equipment, fire solutions and survival craft technology keep people safe when their life depends on it. We have over 2,000 people that work with our partners in 96 countries to provide trustworthy solutions that reduce risk and help protect lives.

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