What is the AIS?
Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a short range coastal tracking system that is used on ships and leisure boats for identifying and locating vessels automatically by exchanging electronic data with other nearby ships and vessel traffic stations. AIS information supplements, but does not replace, marine radar, which continues to be the primary method of collision avoidance for water transport.

AIS products are split into two different classes:

- Class A products are for ships which are either over 300 tonnes or are SOLAS vessels. They are required to meet the guidelines set out in the Marine Equipment Directive.
- Class B products are for non-SOLAS vessels. They need testing and certification under the R&TTE Directive for the European Union and FCC and Industry Canada certification for North America.

Information provided by AIS equipment, such as unique identification, position, course, and speed, can be displayed on a screen or an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS). AIS is intended to assist a vessel’s officers and allow maritime authorities to track and monitor vessel movements. The system integrates standardised VHF transceiver systems and Global Positioning System receivers, with other electronic navigation sensors, such as a gyrocompass or rate of turn indicator.

AIS Testing from TÜV SÜD Product Service
TÜV SÜD Product Service can complete type testing on behalf of AIS equipment manufacturers worldwide to ensure that the products are able to communicate with any other AIS equipment in use and are compatible with other marine communications and navigation systems.

Our comprehensive testing laboratory, based in Fareham, Hampshire, is fully equipped to conduct all required EMC, Environmental, Safety and RF testing under one roof.
AIS Certification from TÜV SÜD BABT
TÜV SÜD Product Service’s certification body, BABT, is a Notified Body under the Marine Equipment Directive 96/98/EC. For certification to the Marine Equipment Directive, BABT can carry out conformity assessment procedures for Modules B, D, E, F and G.

Once a technical file has been compiled, BABT can certify your products, through a Type Examination and Production Control. A successful certification assessment from BABT will result in your products gaining the Marine Equipment Directive Wheel.

Why Choose TÜV SÜD Product Service/TÜV SÜD BABT for AIS Testing and Certification?
- Comprehensive testing and certification is provided under one roof at our fully-equipped laboratory in Fareham, Hampshire
- Short lead times enabling quicker time to market
- Locally based auditors for factory audits
- A team of experienced technical certifiers
- Convenience of optional testing at manufacturers’ premises
- USCG (US Coast Guard) certification under the EU/US MRA

One Stop Testing and Certification from TÜV SÜD Product Service/TÜV SÜD BABT
Although TÜV SÜD BABT provides certification for the Marine Equipment Directive, it is not mandatory to get your products tested by TÜV Product Service. Any ISO 17025 accredited test house can be used. However, TÜV SÜD Product Service is the UK’s leading Environmental, Radio Frequency, EMC and Safety testing laboratory, offering all these services under one roof.

Choose certainty. Add value.
TÜV SÜD is a premium quality, safety and sustainability solutions provider that specialises in testing, inspection, auditing, certification, training and knowledge services. Represented in over 800 locations worldwide, we hold accreditations in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and Asia. By delivering objective solutions to our customers, we add tangible value to businesses, consumers and the environment.

If you choose to use TÜV SÜD Product Service and TÜV SÜD BABT respectively for testing and certification of your products, you will receive a one-stop service enabling you faster market access, provided from one location, with one project manager as your single point of contact – making testing and certification a simple process.