

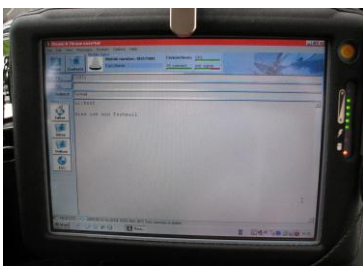
Easy Mail communication



EasyMail is a special mail program by Thrane & Thrane (www.thrane.com). It is very similar to Outlook-Express (for those who remember Windows XP) and enables e-mail conversation over the Standard C Satellite Terminal of Thrane. Outgoing mails can be sent to any address you want. However, incoming mails are only allowed by registered users (spam protection). Therefore, only specific persons can communicate with the terminal. In general this is sufficient and keeps the (not very cheap) roaming costs under control. For a normal text mail (without pictures or other attachments) you have to calculate around 2 CHF. The big advantage (so far) is that you do not have to buy a subscription as with other providers like Thuraya or Iridium.



The mail program in connection with the respective hardware (T&T TT-3020) enables you to write to your family, friends and – in case of emergency – to some support unit/organisation. I like this kind of communication as cost overruns are very seldom. How easily have 10, 20 or even 30 minutes passed with a normal call. You will see the costs on your next phone bill. It is even possible to save more money by using only 7bit character set.. The connection is in most cases reliable when your view to heaven is not blocked. However, in cities or in forests, communication might be hindered by trees and other obstacles.



The costs for such a system run in the 6'000 CHF range. Newer (and better) systems can cost up to 10'000 CHF. Such an investment only pays off if you travel regularly away from generally available connections (eg GSM for mobile phones). For sporadic use, satellite phones can also be rent. In fact, I find the fees and roaming costs horrific. But for occasional use it's still cheaper than buying your own satellite system.