

The two formats stand for **Self Organised Time Division Multiple Access** and **Carrier Sense Time Division Multiple Access**.

In simple terms, the SOTDMA device claims a transmission slot and reserves it for itself regardless of any other vessels, this is the same as Class A AIS found on large commercial vessels.

The CSTDMA device claims its transmission slot but is not guaranteed it. If a Class A transceiver comes along and attempts to claim that particular slot, the CSTDMA device will lose priority and has to find another slot, which may mean a missed transmission and up to 30 seconds before it transmits again.

That is the fundamental difference between the technologies, there are further technical differences which are listed in the tables below. In reality, new CSTDMA transceivers are phasing out.

<b>Function</b>	<b>SOTDMA</b>	<b>CSTDMA</b>
Transmit Power	5W	2W
Transmit Rate	Up to every 5 seconds	Every 30 seconds
Guaranteed Time Slot Allocation	Yes	No

<b>Ships Dynamic Conditions</b>	<b>SOTDMA</b>	<b>CSTDMA</b>
At Anchor or Moored	3 Minutes	3 Minutes
SOG 0-2 knots	3 Minutes	3 Minutes
SOG 2-14 knots	30 Seconds	30 Seconds
SOG 14-23 knots	15 Seconds	30 Seconds
SOG >23 knots	5 Seconds	30 Seconds