



For Immediate Release
July 13, 2009

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NMEA Wins ANSI Accreditation

July 13, 2009, Severna Park, MD: The National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a standards-developing organization. NMEA is best known in standards development for its NMEA 0183 and NMEA 2000® standards that allow communication and networking of onboard marine electronics worldwide, as well as the NMEA Installation Standards that provide a solid frame of reference for proper and safe installation of electronics on vessels.

“The ANSI accreditation means a great deal in terms of the credibility of the NMEA standards to the marine industry on a global scale,” said Steve Spitzer, NMEA’s Technical Director. “The accreditation demonstrates that the NMEA has matured and has perfected a solid process for developing standards. This means that our processes are in line with ANSI requirements which are recognized worldwide.”

“There is no question that the ANSI accreditation gives us [NMEA] high standing in the marketplace,” said David Hayden, NMEA’s President and Executive Director. “It allows us to write and submit standards for certification, knowing that we have developed sound processes that lead to high quality standards that will be readily recognized worldwide. It also tells all of our partners that NMEA is accepted as a highly skilled standards developing organization. Lastly, it further enhances the NMEA standards credibility.”

“In order for an organization like NMEA to win ANSI accreditation, it must develop and demonstrate a repeatable development process that is grounded on consensus building from of a group of subject matter experts and industry interests,” Spitzer explained. “In winning accreditation, the NMEA has demonstrated that it has the expertise, the process and the consensus-building model that is crucial to standards development as required by ANSI.”

Currently, the North American recreational boating industry, as well as the workboat and light commercial marine industry, depend upon NMEA standards for installation and networking of onboard marine electronics. Increasingly, these standards are being used worldwide as more and more manufacturers build their marine electronics to an NMEA standard.

Now more than 35 manufacturers of marine electronics have certified nearly 100 products to the NMEA 2000® Standard. “Every day we are having more and more manufacturers inquiring and or developing NMEA 2000® certified products,” Spitzer said.

The NMEA 2000® Standard offers a safe, high-quality means for marine electronics devices to interface and communicate with each other. Benefits for the boat and ship operators include the following:

- Marine electronics devices from different manufacturers can communicate with each other and operate efficiently and safely. Equipment built by manufacturers to the NMEA 2000® Standard can share data and commands on the boat’s network.
- The NMEA 2000® Standard, built by and maintained by industry leaders, includes message priority and collision avoidance.
- The NMEA 2000® Standard provides boat and ship operators with choices for their product needs. The NMEA 2000® is an extremely robust system that maximizes the ability for consumers to make the choices of products that they want on one network.

For more information on the NMEA standards please www.NMEA.org or contact Steve Spitzer, NMEA Technical Director, at SSpitzer@NMEA.org.

Founded in 1957, the NMEA has led the way in establishing technical standards for data exchange in marine electronics, with the widely accepted NMEA 0183 data protocol, NMEA 2000® and certification standards for marine electronics technicians. NMEA standards and programs focus on insuring that the boating consumer is provided reliable products and professional service. For more information, visit the NMEA website at www.NMEA.org or call (410) 975-9425.

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