



National Marine Electronics Association

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NMEA boosts its international role at METS

Visitors from around the world are treated to live NMEA 2000® demo and education sessions

The National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) extended its international reach in mid-November through active participation at METS, the largest marine-equipment trade exposition in the world. More than 18,000 professionals, representing virtually every aspect of the marine trades, visited the three-day event and its 1,320 exhibits.

At the request of METS organizers, NMEA conducted an all-day ConnectFest demonstration as well as educational presentations on NMEA 2000®, AIS, and satellite communications. ConnectFest is a live demonstration of equipment from various manufacturers operating compatibly on an NMEA 2000® network cable, commonly called a backbone. NMEA 2000® is a protocol developed by the marine electronics industry that allows networked devices to communicate seamlessly with one another.



Technical Director Steve Spitzer and Dave Morschhauser, an independent technical consultant working with NMEA, walked visitors through ConnectFest's live demonstration of NMEA 2000® devices and also conducted the educational sessions. Feedback from attendees was very positive and encouraged METS and NMEA to cooperate on similar sessions in the future.

ConnectFest, a live demonstration of electronic devices on an NMEA 2000 network, drew interested crowds. Technical Consultant Dave Morschhauser (left) explains how everything works.

For the second year, NMEA had an exhibit stand at the show. This year, the location was in the Elicium, which links the two main exhibit buildings. NMEA's stand was prominently located across from a display of equipment entered for the prestigious DAME Award, which is presented annually at METS. Sweden's Selden Mast AB won the 2010 award for its reversing winch for sailboats. A digital load cell by Spinlock Ltd., called ZS RopeSense, took first place in the marine electronics category. Navionics' Mediterranean HD phone app for the iPhone won top honors in the marine-related-software category. Most Innovative Product certificates went to

Navionics for the iPhone software and to Palladium Technologies for its SiMON² vessel-monitoring and control system using an iPad.

“NMEA had a very strong presence at METS this year,” said NMEA President, David Hayden. “Not only did the great location of the NMEA stand give us the opportunity to talk to a wide variety of people about NMEA 2000® and the training we offer, but the all-day ConnectFest and presentations by Technical Director Steve Spitzer and Technical Consultant Dave Morschhauser on NMEA 2000®, AIS, and satellite communications, drew interested crowds. We’re looking forward to increasing NMEA’s international contacts and exposure at next year’s exposition.”

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.