



CONNECT *Fest*

A NMEA 2000® LIVE DEMO

For Immediate Release
Sept. 23, 2009,
<http://www.connectfest.org>

ConnectFest Demonstration, Boat Building Workshop Scheduled for METS

The NMEA 2000® Network, the international networking marine electronics industry open standard for communication on vessels, will be demonstrated at a special event called ConnectFest, scheduled to be held at METS trade fair in Amsterdam this November.

Also at METS, a special NMEA workshop, “Getting Your Boat Ready for Marine Electronics,” will be offered. Both events are organized by the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) and are free for trade personnel.

Here are the schedules for ConnectFest and the NMEA Workshop:

METS ConnectFest: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Room G109

METS Boatbuilding Workshop: Thursday, Nov. 19, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Room G106

NMEA ConnectFest:

NMEA 2000® ConnectFest is a Live Demonstration of the NMEA 2000® “open” Industry Networking Standard. A number of diverse manufacturers will be interacting and demonstrating the interoperability of different products talking the same language in a network environment, according to Steve Spitzer, NMEA’s Technical Director.

The NMEA 2000® Marine “open” Network Standard was developed by various companies in and outside of the industry. More than 40 marine organizations have invested time and resources to create the NMEA 2000® based on CAN (Controller Area Network). In addition, other experts including Kvaser AB, Oklahoma State University, Sun Microsystems, and the U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development contributed their expertise under the guidance of NMEA. Today, NMEA 2000® is maintained by the industry’s global NMEA 2000® Technical Standards Committee with more than 100 companies participating.

The NMEA ConnectFest will demonstrate and answer the hard questions of hidden costs, ease of installation, simplicity, configurability, and scalability. The NMEA 2000® network is an open plug and play system, allowing plugging or unplugging products with no downtime on the network.

At ConnectFest, people may attend anytime during the demonstration hours. The presentation will begin with a short 15 minute presentation on the background of NMEA 2000® at the beginning of the ConnectFest. A live demonstration of a NMEA 2000® working network with marine electronics, engines and electrical will be ongoing.

NMEA Boatbuilding Workshop:

The NMEA Boatbuilding Workshop will discuss how to avoid marine electronics problems from the keel up. Today's vessels are multifunctional platforms that fill many roles. One role is to provide a platform for marine electronics that, among other things, ensures safe and efficient vessel navigation. NMEA and an industry panel will discuss what makes a vessel an efficient and trouble-free platform for today's marine electronics.

This seminar will consider standard practices from the NMEA Installation Standards used in the aftermarket and identify which practices boat builders can adopt. Examples will illustrate how common problems with production boats are fixed in the field and what can be done to avoid the problems in the first place.

For further information, Contact Steve Spitzer, NMEA Technical Director, at:

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To sign up please go to the website, <http://www.connectfest.org> or go to <http://www.NMEA.org> and check the calendar of upcoming events and their links.

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