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NMEA Named Liaison Organization For IEC

Dec. 9, 2009, Severna Park, MD: The National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) has been named a “liaison ‘D’ organization” by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). IEC is one of the primary international standards and rule making organizations for all electronic products and services, including marine electronics.

“This means the NMEA will have a seat at the table as standards and rules are considered and formulated for the marine electronics industry,” said Steve Spitzer, NMEA’s Technical Director.

This announcement follows a recent announcement that the 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, plus the naming of NMEA as a liaison ‘D’ organization by IEC, mean a great deal in terms of the credibility of the NMEA standards to the marine industry on a global scale,” Spitzer said. “It all means that the NMEA has matured and developed competences and reliable processes for developing standards.”

As a liaison organization for IEC, the NMEA will be able to make technical contributions and participate actively in selected working groups, project teams and maintenance teams, Spitzer said. The NMEA is required to be multinational in its objectives and standards development

activities. NMEA is also required to have a sufficient degree of representation within its defined area of competence, he said.

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. These standards are being used worldwide as manufacturers build their marine electronics to an NMEA standard.

“Every day we are having more and more manufacturers inquiring and/or developing NMEA 2000® certified products,” Spitzer said.

For more information on the NMEA standards, please visit 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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