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NMEA announces entries for Technology Award

Ten products vie for best new marine electronics

SEVERNA PARK, MD—The National Marine Electronics Association today named the 10 products that will compete for the 2010 Technology Award. Presented during the NMEA International Marine Electronics Conference & Expo, held this year in Seattle, the Technology Award singles out the best new marine electronics product.

Three veteran editors and journalists from Boating Writers International will judge the product submissions based on innovation, benefit to boaters, practicality and value. The judges are:

--Ben Ellison, owner and editor of the marine electronics blog Panbo; and senior electronics editor of the Bonnier Marine Group of publications, including Yachting and Cruising World.

--Dean Travis Clarke, executive editor of World Publications’ Sport Fishing, Marlin and Fly Fishing in Saltwaters magazines; host of Sport Fishing Television; and author of FISH: 77 Great Fish of North America.

--Tim Queeney, editor of Ocean Navigator and Ocean Voyager magazines; and celestial navigation instructor.

Introduced in 2009, the Technology Award recognizes recently introduced products that advance technology within the marine electronics industry. The winner will be named at the annual NMEA banquet on Oct. 2 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel.

Products submitted for the award include:

FLIR First Mate handheld thermal imager, FLIR Systems, Inc.
GPSMAP 7215 chartplotter with G Motion technology, Garmin International
E-Series Widescreen multifunction display with HybridTouch, Raymarine Inc.
WASSP Navigator Software, Electronic Navigation Ltd.
MaxSea Time Zero Explorer navigation software, Furuno/MaxSea
TracVision HD7 satellite TV antenna, KVH
USAT 30 marine stabilized antenna, Cobham Satcom SeaTel
Simrad NSE multifunction display with version 2.0 software, *Navico*
Matrix AIS/VHF (GX2100), *Standard Horizon*
AIS WatchMate RX, *Vesper Marine Ltd.*

“We’re very excited about the product entries for this year’s Technology Award,” said NMEA President and Executive Director David Hayden. “They represent a wide range of hardware and software innovations that directly benefit boaters by enhancing what they experience at sea. Now it’s up to our panel of distinguished and talented judges to select the best of the best. We’re grateful to them for their thoroughness in making what will be a very difficult decision.”

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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.