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FOR IMMEDIATE

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P-TRAP RECOGNIZED AT SEATRADE AWARDS

Anti-piracy efforts took center stage at recent awards ceremony

Leusden, The Netherlands, April 7, 2011 – Piracy was the theme of the evening at the 23rd Seatrade Awards Ceremony Dinner, held April 4 at London’s Guildhall. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General, Efthimios Mitropoulos chaired the event which honored exceptional contributions made over the last year within the maritime industry. Westmark BV, based in The Netherlands, was named a finalist in the Safety at Sea category for its anti-piracy protection product, P-Trap®.

The Seatrade Special Award for Countering Piracy was presented to Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General United Nations (UN), and a separate award was dedicated to the seafarers of the world who have been endangered by maritime piracy. The awards were presented by HRH The Princess Royal, who highlighted the importance of finding solutions to the piracy problem, “Over 600 seafarers are currently being held hostage by pirates and there are more incidents on a weekly basis. Finding a suitable answer to piracy is an international problem and a solution must be found internationally.”

The P-Trap®, a passive non-lethal protection measure against pirates, was introduced to the international shipping community last year. Since then, multiple major marine transport companies, including Dockwise, have tested the system while sailing through the Gulf of Aden and other pirate-infested regions.

“The P-Trap® contributes to the hardening of a vessel, but even more importantly, in today’s climate, it gives crew members an additional layer of protection, confidence and peace of mind that extends to their families at home as well,” said Lodewijk Westerbeek van Eerten, creator of P-Trap®.

The P-Trap® protects seagoing vessels from unwanted boarding attempts. Once deployed it offers continuous protection without monitoring and prevents seafarers from being placed in harm's way. The system is designed to withstand multiple simultaneously performed pirate attacks by means of two heavily constructed P-Trap® booms positioned on both sides of the vessel. Conductors are lowered to the waterline carrying P-Trap® lines along the entire length of the vessel. The propeller of a pirate vessel that sails within reach of the P-Trap® will become entangled in the lines, stalling the engine and immobilizing the propulsion of the attacking vessel. As a result, the P-Trap® line will break at a weak link and the pirates will have to clear their propeller.

A full-scale test was performed last year by the Royal Dutch Coast Guard in conjunction with the Royal Netherlands Sea Rescue Organization and the Royal Dutch Navy on the North Sea. Four simulated pirate attacks at varying speeds put the product to the test with promising results—in all cases the “pirates” were unable to come within five meters of the ship.

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