

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**INTERNATIONAL MARINE ELECTRONICS ALLIANCE
FORMED TO IMPROVE MARITIME SAFETY AND PROVIDE
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

IMEA receives US IRS nonprofit 501 (c) (3) status

SEVERNA PARK, MD—The National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) is pleased to introduce a new affiliated non-profit corporation—the International Marine Electronics Alliance, Inc. (IMEA). IMEA’s mission is to promote safe and reliable passage for all vessels in the maritime industry worldwide through a program of education, scientific research and testing. IMEA will collaborate with other nonprofit associations and government agencies to advance relevant education, scientific knowledge and testing.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has recognized IMEA as exempt from federal income tax under IRS Code Section 501 (c) (3). IMEA is a supporting organization of NMEA. As a charitable organization, IMEA is eligible to receive tax-deductible grants, gifts, and donations from public and private organizations.

IMEA is dedicated to maintaining and improving safety in maritime operations and pleasure boating through the use of electronics. The IMEA supports global efforts to establish, install, operate, and maintain safe and reliable electronics aboard all vessels. The IMEA plans to provide educational programs that will enable military service veterans to transition into the marine electronics workforce. This could involve establishment of an apprenticeship program through collaboration with stakeholders in the industry as well as cooperation with vocational

institutions and advanced training programs for current employees.

“IMEA will be a great partner for the international marine electronics industry,” said IMEA Chairperson Judy Johnson, co-owner of Shine Micro, Inc. “Exciting proposals and programs for education and service are already developing to promote standards for excellence worldwide.”

“I am honored to be working with the extremely technical IMEA board,” said Mark Reedenauer, IMEA President & Executive Director. “I want to thank Jules Rutstein and Johnny Lindstrom from the NMEA Board of Directors for having the vision and confidence in the NMEA staff to get this project off the ground.”

The current IMEA Board of Directors includes, Chairperson Judy Johnson, Vice Chairperson Steve Burdett, Secretary Brian Tetreault and Directors David Pietraszewski and Nils Nelson.

If charitable organizations wish to get involved, or make a donation, contact the IMEA National Office at 410-975-9425, www.imea-marine.org , info@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 ensuring that the boating consumer is provided with reliable products and professional service. For more information, visit the NMEA website at www.NMEA.org or call (410) 975-9425.