



Press Release

For Immediate Release

SEASTAR SOLUTIONS INTRODUCES NEW SEAWAYS AUTOPILOT

New Autopilot System is the Ultimate Extension of SeaStar's Optimus 360 Steering and Joystick Control System

(September 2017 - Southampton, UK) - SeaStar Solutions, the global leader in steering and control systems, is proud to announce SeaWays Autopilot, a versatile autopilot that will get SeaStar Optimus system owners to their destination with confidence and efficiency. Because SeaWays works within SeaStar's Optimus 360 and SeaStation systems, it requires no additional hardware and minimal tuning. SeaWays is, in fact, a simple software upgrade to the Optimus 360 Pump Control Module (PCM) using the CANtrak display and takes advantage of SeaStation's GPS sensor.

Before we explain the details, let's put SeaWays in context. A few years ago, SeaStar Solutions introduced its revolutionary Optimus 360 joystick docking system for twin outboard powered boats.

Optimus 360 combined an advanced electronic Pump Control Module (the brains of the system), with a new electronic helm, smart steering cylinder and throttle/shift control. In addition to speed-adaptive power steering while underway, close quarters manoeuvring was now possible using a joystick to control engine steering and thrust, moving the boat forward, backwards, diagonally, even sideways. This is all accomplished with minimal shifting and greater precision.

Since then, SeaStar Solutions has expanded the capabilities of the Optimus 360 system to include triple and quad outboard installations, as well as outboards with either mechanical or electronic throttle and shift controls.

In October 2016, SeaStar was the first to introduce its SeaStation GPS Anchoring System with three individual modes. SeaStation uses the Optimus 360 system to hold a boat in position in one of three modes; position, heading or position and heading combined.

And now, SeaStar has further expanded the capabilities of the Optimus 360 system, by adding its new SeaWays Autopilot.



SeaWays Autopilot utilises the SeaStation GPS-Compass sensor and Optimus 360 components that are already installed to provide directional control based on heading, course over ground or waypoints. With a simple install of new software to the Pump Control Module via the USB port in the Optimus 360 CANtrak display, SeaWays provides autopilot capabilities. No additional hardware, wiring or plumbing is necessary. SeaWays' autopilot functions can be accessed and controlled through the CANtrak display or a third party chartplotter or MFD.

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The SeaWays system can be set to operate in any one of three autopilot modes. The Heading Mode keeps the boat moving in the desired heading, but allows it to drift with wind or current. Track Mode holds a preset course over ground, allowing SeaWays to adjust the heading to stay on track. In Route Mode, SeaWays follows waypoints provided by third-party chartplotters to arrive at a specific destination.

Importantly, because SeaWays' Course Control Unit (CCU) software runs in the Optimus Pump Control Module, it is aware of the steering characteristics of the vessel. Consequently, it requires minimal tuning, an important distinction when compared with third-party autopilot systems.

Boat owners with Optimus 360 and SeaStation, will find it easy to add the SeaWays autopilot to their system. Boat owners considering Optimus 360 can now take advantage of a complete suite of capabilities, with speed-adaptive power steering, joystick control, SeaStation GPS anchoring and SeaWays autopilot, all in one robust, proven system.

SeaStar expects to begin distributing the SeaWays Autopilot software in late 2017. SeaStation and SeaWays, when available, will be included at no additional cost with the purchase of Optimus 360 for Model Year 2018. Installation might be extra.

For more information on SeaWays, SeaStation, Optimus 360 or any of SeaStar Solutions wide range of products and brands, please visit **www.seastarsolutions.com**.

About SeaStar Solutions

SeaStar Solutions is the leading global provider of OEM and aftermarket products and accessories for the recreational marine and related markets. Sold around the world under the SeaStar, Sierra, BayStar, Shields, Inca, Mallory, Prime Line and Proheat brands, the Company's products are recognized for their quality, reliability and technical innovation. For more information, please refer to the Company's website at **www.seastarsolutions.com**

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