

Luxury Yacht Owners Enjoy Simplicity of Joystick Control

A writer for a yachting magazine described his adventure traveling in a modern yacht equipped with a joystick that simplified the challenge of docking the boat. He wrote, "I relaxed in the helmsman's chair and twisted the knob atop the jog stick to maintain or change course. It removed all the wandering jet boats like to do at a walking pace under wheel steering."

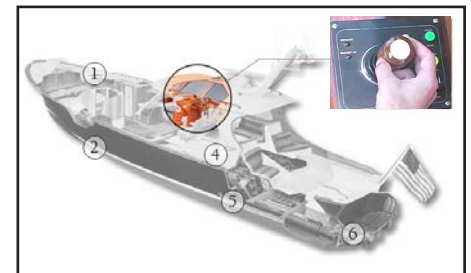
That pretty-well sums up the value, which boat owners have found with an electronic and hydraulic control system that replaces the traditional ship's wheel. Low speed maneuvering is made easy as the joy stick integrates the jet drives with a hydraulic bow thruster for precise fly-by-wire control. Providing fingertip control is available through different "modes" or settings. In the docking mode, the pilot can maneuver for slow-speed and lateral moves such as docking in tight spaces. In power steer mode, the number of inputs is minimized when the ship is underway. And in helm mode, the boat is controlled through a combination of steering wheel and the joy stick.

The state-of-the-art electronic system used by Sorensen Systems for its yacht-building customer is a unique, totally electronic approach that replaces mechanical and electromechanical systems for controlling and monitoring hydraulics in mobile and marine applications. The system permits custom software applications without the need for advanced programming skills.

The hardware is important too. It was designed to endure severe weather and robust operation. It tolerates extreme heat or cold, vibrations, mechanical impact and electromagnetic interferences. The systems include built-in self-diagnostics that will help minimize down time in case of failure in the field.



The proprietary joystick design employed by a premium yacht builder relies on the engineering and manufacturing expertise at Sorensen Systems.



The controller manipulates the forward/reverse and side to side direction-controlling thrusts of the jet at the base of the boat's transom.



In docking mode, the joystick system coordinates with the bow thruster so the boat can be moved absolutely sideways, making docking very simple.