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‘Assisted Docking’ for outboards to be demonstrated by Mercury Marine and Raymarine at two upcoming events

FOND DU LAC, Wisc. , Feb. 01, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- A revolutionary “assisted docking” system that provides a glimpse into the future of boating will be demonstrated for the media at two upcoming events by Mercury Marine and Raymarine aboard a Boston Whaler Outrage. The first event will take place today at Mercury’s famed Lake X test center and another demonstration to take place at the 2019 Miami International Boat Show. Mercury Marine is a leading propulsion systems manufacturer of Brunswick Corporation (NYSE: BC) and Raymarine is a leading marine electronics brand by FLIR Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: FLIR) and creator of the DockSense assisted docking system.



Integrating Raymarine DockSense assisted-docking is a natural “next step” for Mercury, which introduced Zeus joystick docking, the world’s most advanced joystick system for pod drives, in 2007. Axis, the first joystick system for sterndrive engines, followed a year later, and Mercury introduced Joystick Piloting for Outboards (JPO) in 2013. All three joystick systems deliver unparalleled control and performance, and all three were developed as precursors of autonomous vessel control.

“This demonstration extends Mercury’s role as the leader in marine propulsion,” said John Pfeifer, Mercury Marine president. “Our future is focused on innovation and inspiration on the water. We are positioned on the cutting edge of autonomous piloting and other new technologies and will continue to deliver better boating experiences to our customers.”

At the upcoming demonstrations at Lake X and the Miami Boat Show, the new Raymarine DockSense assisted-docking system will be featured on a 33-foot Boston Whaler Outrage rigged with twin Mercury Verado engines with JPO, and with Mercury’s advanced piloting assist system, as well as Raymarine’s DockSense. Mercury’s new assisted-docking system is a core technology based on the latest aerospace control systems and autonomous-car Artificial Intelligence. Mercury’s powerful autonomous system will support a wide variety of future uses for assisted and semi-autonomous functionality, as it can be integrated with sensors like vision systems and lidar. This demonstrator provides an example as how Mercury’s technology is both high-performing and adaptable to partner systems, like

DockSense to can make boating easier.

The DockSense system uses advanced machine vision technology to sense and identify potential obstacles in the vessel's path, providing feedback to the Mercury Autonomous system to allow the boat's JPO system to autonomously respond and ensure a smooth docking process.

"Mercury's adoption of Raymarine DockSense assisted docking solution will transform the boating experience," said Travis Merrill, FLIR Commercial Business Unit president. "By combining FLIR machine learning and advanced sensor technologies into DockSense, we are taking the stress out of docking and making the boating experience more enjoyable for everyone onboard."

While not in the market place today, assisted docking technology is poised to revolutionize boat handling in the near the future. The upcoming demonstrations will be used to capture valuable market feedback that will help to work toward the adoption and commercialization of these advanced technologies.

About Mercury Marine

Headquartered in Fond du Lac, Wis., Mercury Marine is a world leading manufacturer of marine propulsion systems. A \$2.6 billion division of Brunswick Corporation (NYSE: BC), Mercury designs, manufactures and distributes engines, services and parts for recreational, commercial and government marine applications, empowering boaters with products that are easy to use, extremely reliable and backed by the most dedicated customer support in the world with 10,000 service points globally. Mercury's industry-leading brand portfolio includes Mercury outboard engines; Mercury MerCruiser sterndrive and inboard packages; Mercury global parts and accessories including propellers, and SmartCraft electronics; Power Products Integrated Solutions; MotorGuide trolling motors; Attwood, Garelick and Whale marine parts; Land 'N' Sea, BLA, Payne's Marine, Kellogg Marine & Lankhorst Taselaar marine parts distribution; and Mercury and Quicksilver parts and oils. More information is available at mercurymarine.com.

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