

New Gyro for UK's Fastest Pilot Launch

The new *Meridian Gyrocompass* from *S G Brown* has been chosen by *Humber Estuary Services* to cope with the high speeds and extreme sea conditions being encountered by the newest addition to its fleet of pilot launches.

The Souter Marine built *Humber Callisto* is capable of 36 knots and is now the fastest pilot launch operating in UK waters. Since entering service with Associated British Ports it has been working in some of the worst weather and roughest waters that can be experienced in the North Sea. The boat's crews have nevertheless praised the *Meridian's* ability to withstand the rapid turns and extreme G-forces to which the boat can be subjected.

'The conditions we work in would finish other gyros,' said assistant marine manager Kevin



Three Scania D14 engines powering triple water jets push the 17m 'Humber Callisto' to 36 knots.

Hartley, whose colleagues had relied upon magnetic compasses previously. This is the first gyrocompass to be used by the service and was chosen to support the introduction of an autopilot aboard the *Humber Callisto*. This has been introduced as part of an ongoing technical development programme aimed at making pilotage operations safer and more efficient. The success of the new boat makes it probable that it will be followed

by two more of the same class.

Specifically developed to meet the needs of high speed craft, the *Meridian's* one box solution makes it particularly suitable for use on smaller vessels. It is believed to be the first such product to receive a Wheelmark certificate of approval from the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, denoting compliance with all standards applicable to a marine gyrocompass.

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Hydro 2001 Proceedings

The proceedings of *Hydro 2001*, the *Hydrographic Society's* 12th biennial international symposium held at the University of East Anglia in March, have been published and are now available. Some 330 delegates from 21 countries attended the event and the presentation of 31 papers which now comprise the proceedings.

Featured topics include the Future of Hydrography, Electronic Charting, Bathymetry Applications, Coastal Protection and Erosion, Laser & Swathe Bathymetry, Positioning, GIS and others.

Inclusive of postage, bound copies of the proceedings are available for £50 for Society members and £60 for non-members. Contact The Hydrographic Society, University of East London, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2AS. Tel: 020 8597 1946, Fax: 020 8590 9730, Email: hydrosoc@compuserve.com

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