International Competitive Fast Ferries and Composite Ship Technology

Project Title: International Competitive Fast Ferries and Composite Ship Technology

Primary Consortium Member: Gladding-Hearn Shipbuilding, Nichols Brothers Boat Builders and University of California-San Diego

Additional Contractor/Consortium Members: Incat, Sydney, Australia; the University of Washington, Prof. Storch; Tillotson-Pearson Composites, Inc. (TPI); Trans-Science Corporation; VTEC Laboratories Inc.; Worchester Polytechnic University; National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. (NASSCO); Avondale Industries, Inc.; Det Norske Veritas and the U.S. Coast Guard

Project Objectives/Overview: The primary objective of this MARITECH project is to further develop and implement advanced shipbuilding technologies, as well as the associated improved business practices and process systems, for the purpose of achieving a preeminent international market position for these U.S. shipbuilders. In addition, research will be conducted on composite materials and coatings that can satisfy structural and fire protection requirements of regulatory agencies and classification societies.

Project Status: This is a very comprehensive two-year project that covers a broad range of technical and business areas. The key areas are:

- Facilities improvement plans and studies
- Process improvement with Zone Outfit Logic Technology (ZOLT)
- Management and production staff education and training
- International market transportation analyses and studies
- International classification of vessels
- Advanced composite hull design and fabrication for catamarans
- Composite research including structural properties and fire protection research including the development of new protective coatings and materials
- Low wake studies and development

Project Contacts: Gladding-Hearn Shipbuilding; Nichols Brothers Boat Builders or University of California, San Diego, Department of Structural Engineering; and Project AOTR Richard Voelker, Maritime Administration