

Competitive High Speed Vessels for International Markets

Project Title: Competitive High Speed Vessels for International Markets

Primary Consortium Member: SwiftShips, Inc.

Additional Contractor/Consortium Members:

Task 1: "Swift Express" Product Line - Diamond Services, Inc.; Stewart & Stevenson Services, Inc. (Detroit Diesel/MTU); Sewart Supply, Inc. (HamiltonJet); The University of New Orleans (UNO), School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

Task 2: "Shipyard 2000" Development - The Port of Morgan City, Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District of the Louisiana State Ports Authority; The City of Morgan City; The Town of Berwick; The East St. Mary Area Chamber of Commerce, Economic Council; The Louisiana State Department of Economic Development; The Louisiana State University (LSU), National Ports and Waterways Institute

Project Objectives/Overview: There are two primary objectives for this MARITECH project. Project Task 1 seeks to improve the existing product lines and develop a new product line, the "Swift Express" family of crew/supply vessels, utilizing multiple diesel engines combined with waterjet propulsors. Project Task 2 has as its objective the improvement of the existing Swiftships, Inc. physical plant and the design and development of an entirely new "Shipyard 2000" to build the Swift Express vessels for world markets.

Project Status: A broad market survey completed early in the project confirmed that there is a viable market for larger, faster crewboats. The results of this survey have guided the Swift Express vessel designs for larger craft with higher speeds and payloads without significant changes to the hull shape. Concurrently, production evaluation efforts are focused on flexible manufacturing techniques and identifying areas where improvement can be made, both with existing and with advanced technologies. Crawford Technologies, Inc., working as a subcontractor for advanced process and manufacturing engineering under Swiftships, Inc., has identified twelve tasks which are being developed for concept and demonstration.

Project Contacts:

SwiftShips, Inc.

Project AOTR Zelvin Levine, Maritime Administration