

For Immediate Release

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Ribeye & Phase Vision Make Waves in Marine Engineering

Ribeye, one of the UK's leading rigid inflatable boat manufacturers, selects Phase Vision as metrology supplier for its latest state-of-the-art aluminium hull craft, bringing a new wave of precision engineering to boat manufacturing.

The historic town of Dartmouth (UK) has a long maritime history, being the last staging post of the Pilgrim Fathers en-route to the New World. Today the town is home to one of the world's leading high-tech rigid inflatable boat builders. Ribeye has successfully married the tradition and craftsmanship of boat building with the latest materials, construction techniques and global supply-chain management processes.

Ribeye founder and CEO, Charles Chivers commented "The luxury boat industry has faced a number of challenges during the recent economic downturn. Customers continue to demand high performance, top quality products, but at increasingly competitive price points. The light weight and rigid construction aluminium hulls on our latest generation RIBs enables excellent performance in terms of both top speed and durability. To offer this performance at a competitive price point we have engaged manufacturing partners in Asia where the hull skins are



now produced before being finally assembled and quality inspected in the UK."

Whilst design techniques for boat building have moved on significantly over the last 10 years using CAD and CFD analysis, there is no substitute for experience when it comes to combining performance with design appeal and practicality in use. The design process for Ribeye's next generation therefore involved a combination of both CAD and

manually crafted scale mock-ups.

A single Phase Vision Quartz™ 800 scanner was used to capture and reverse engineer the mock-ups, which were suspended from a gantry to allow 360 degree access. Several scans were required to capture each hull. Phase Vision's proprietary GemAlign software then automatically stitched the scans together ready for export into Polyworks for back-end processing. Cross-section slices of the hull were created, which Rib-Eye could then transfer electronically to its Asian manufacturing partner to define the tooling for the metal forming process.

Ribeye's Sales Director John Wood commented "Getting to market with the latest designs in time for show season is critical to us. Curved surfaces and complex shapes make hulls incredibly difficult to measure, with certain critical features having a significant impact on performance. As a partner of Yamaha Engines it is critical for us to ensure that our boats not only look good, but also offer best-in-class performance on the water. The reverse engineering process has been a bottleneck in the past, both in terms of the time it takes to measure a hull and the limited resolution of data supplied back. Phase Vision solved both these issues for us allowing our designs to be transferred to manufacture ahead of schedule for next season's product launch."

About RibEye

Ribeye Ltd was formed in 1998 and began manufacturing in Dartmouth, Devon. Since then, Ribeye has established manufacturing facilities on an international basis. These manufacturing facilities have been carefully selected because of their modern production procedures and excellent standard of quality control. Ribeye personnel are present and responsible for all aspects of the manufacturing process. This ensures that every aspect of manufacture from design through to finished product is of the highest quality. All Ribeyes are powered exclusively by Yamaha. The present Ribeye range has been put together with the total co-operation of Yamaha and is available through the Yamaha UK and European Dealership Network. Yamaha, the world's leading manufacturer of outboard engines, has collaborated closely with Ribeye in the production of the present range. "Ribeye, powered by Yamaha - what a team," agrees David Pougher, Manager of Yamaha Marine UK Ltd. Yamaha's range of engines and Ribeye's range of boats make an unbeatable pairing so when it comes to having fun, its serious fun.

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About Phase Vision

Phase Vision has been a pioneer in the development of full field white light 3D micro-metrology since 2002. We design and manufacture one of the fastest, most accurate medium- to large-volume 3D measurement solutions in the world, with clients spanning some of the biggest names in Aerospace Engineering, F1 Motorsport, Marine, Advanced Composites and General Industrial Manufacturing. Robust

hardware and software solutions engineered for the most demanding customers are designed, manufactured and quality tested at our new high-tech facility in the UK. Leading-edge scanners, seamless compatibility with the latest 3D CAD software together with a “Can Do” approach to problem solving makes Phase Vision the ideal metrology partner for your supply chain. Phase Vision technology helps optimise processes, save time, reduce costs and offers new ways of approaching common engineering and measurement problems more effectively.

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