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X-Craft LCS Coated with QuietShip™ Quiet Improves Human Performance on Board Ships

Sunnyvale, CA – February 4, 2005 – The Navy’s latest warship, the Littoral Combat Ship “X-Craft”, launched today with an advanced viscoelastic polymer coating to damp noise and vibration. Combat readiness and force protection are compromised by harmful noise, a situation that the Office of Naval Research (ONR) decided to address on this experimental platform.

The X-Craft is a high-speed experimental vessel developed by the Office of Naval Research. The 73 meter aluminum catamaran is designed to demonstrate cutting-edge technologies that will enable Navy warships to operate farther, faster, safer and deliver a variety of missions with less manpower. In this real-world application QuietShip coating applied to the hull and mission bay of X-Craft was one-third lighter than standard navy tiles and successfully reduced the noise by 15 decibels, a 65% reduction in perceived noise. QuietShip, an environmentally friendly (no VOC) viscoelastic polymer, was designed to be highly effective on High-Speed Craft and all other aluminum, steel and composite-hull vessels.

Kurt Yankaskas, NAVSEA Human Systems Integration, considered the Navy’s top noise and acoustical expert, led the Navy’s effort for the past decade to control noise in warships and has briefed the National Academy of Sciences on the medical effects of noise stated, “Noise can make the difference between excellence and ‘at risk’ performance. In Defense Department tests, noise hurt seven operational goals in the time and accuracy a task took to identify the enemy, target, shoot-to-kill and not suffer friendly fire. NAVSEA is concerned about human performance. The X-Craft would have been a much noisier vessel without the QuietShip treatment.”

The project was executed in collaboration with Noise Control Engineering (NCE), which simulated the X-Craft noise contours on the “Designer Noise” software modeling program. Ray Fischer, President of NCE, stated, “Noise Control Engineering teamed with Quiet Solution to tackle the difficult acoustic environment expected to exist on X-Craft. Quiet Solution provided a novel, low-cost and effective damping treatment – QuietShip - that can be used on light-weight high-speed craft to reduce habitability noise. This treatment has a minimal impact on weight. Furthermore it is approved for use in manned spaces, which is a significant improvement over the standard US Navy damping tiles.”

QuietShip proved highly effective in reducing both the airborne and structure-borne noise and vibration. Based on testing by NCE of similar damped and undamped frame-stiffened aluminum structures, QuietShip reduced the airborne by 15 dB between 63 Hz and 2,500 Hz. QuietShip weighs 36% less than the standard Navy damping tile. Also, QuietShip is adaptable to different frequency ranges and operational temperatures; the standard Navy tile is not. QuietShip has American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and U.S. Coast Guard certifications and type approval for installation in berthing areas, while the standard Navy damping tile can only be used in machinery spaces. The product is now available for use on Navy and commercial vessels.

About Quiet Solution

Quiet Solution provides world-class soundproofing materials. As an innovative material science company, Quiet Solution deploys technologies to solve large-scale problems in the construction and transportation sectors. Its patent-pending, lab-tested products are based on advanced viscoelastic polymers and constrained layer damping. All the company’s products are environmentally friendly and manufactured in the USA. The company is headquartered in Silicon Valley.

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