



Marine Systems Training Center Celebrates Opening

Thomaston, ME • August 20, 2008

The Marine Systems Training Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony today to celebrate the Center's opening at the Thomaston Academy on Main Street in Thomaston.

Managed by the Maine Marine Trades Association

The event which was well-attended by town officials, members of industry and friends and neighbors of the Center featured remarks from representatives of Eastern Maine Development Corp., the Maine legislature and industry. Attendees enjoyed light refreshments while they toured the class rooms, office and learning lab after the ribbon was cut.

Minda McVetty of Rockland who has been named Director of the Marine Systems Training Center noted that the Center “represents a very exciting development in the educational arena of the Midcoast, providing a means for keeping one of Maine’s cornerstone industries alive and thriving”.

Although trainings began at the Thomaston site in November 2007, necessary renovations have just recently been completed and an expanded schedule of courses for workers in the marine industry is nearly ready for release. Educational/training providers will include the Landing School, The Boat School-Husson, the American Boat and Yacht Council, the Maine Community College System, original equipment manufacturers and others.

“The training center provides a place for training, allowing the best training providers to offer workers the highest quality training in marine systems and related programs in the state of Maine,” said Susan Swanton, Executive Director of the Maine Marine Trades Association. “The availability of highly desired training programs close to home will allow more businesses to train more employees — making Maine’s work force even stronger and better able to deal with changing technologies.”

The Marine Systems Training Center is the first functioning component of the Many Flags/One Campus initiative that seeks to develop a single campus with multiple educational programs by the fall of 2013. Initial funding for the center has been provided by Maine’s North Star Alliance Initiative.

“What makes the center so exciting is that it has been championed by collaboration between the marine industry Eastern Maine Development Corporation, industry, members of the Legislature and many others” Swanton said. In recognition of the industry’s wide-reaching support for the Marine Systems Training Center, it is managed by the Maine Marine Trades Association.

“We feel certain that the commitment of MMTA will ensure that our center meets the needs of the marine industry in Maine,” said Alan Hinsey, president of the MSTC Advisory Board and economic development specialist with Eastern Maine Development Corporation for Knox and Waldo counties.

Just as boat buyers come to Maine from around the world to find the best boats, many also choose Maine yards for service that ranges from routine maintenance to major overhauls and retrofits. The Marine Systems Training Center fills a training need for workers and businesses that will allow them to continue to attract boat owners to yards in Maine.