



Goodchild Marine's Fast Pilot Craft Stays Cool With Robust Air Conditioning

Crew Comfort Vital In Rough, High-Speed Conditions

The extreme weather conditions and wind-whipped seas of the southern Thames estuary and southern North Sea present formidable challenges for pilot boats and crew. That's why Goodchild Marine was contracted to build tough new ORC 171P Fast Pilot Crafts for Estuary Services Ltd.



ORC 171P Fast Pilot Craft by Goodchild Marine

Crew comfort was paramount in the design of these 57-ft. (17.37 m) vessels, which led to the integration of an acoustically separate wheelhouse and suspended seating for all crew — as well as the introduction of air conditioning.

VectorCompact Cools Tempers & Temperatures

Pilot Craft crew work in rigorous conditions and heavy weather, so clothing and gear become wet.

"Crew comfort has been a priority throughout the design of the ORC series and in-line with this modern innovative design we wanted to install new



Marine Air's Vector Compact self-contained air conditioner

air conditioning equipment," comments Alan Goodchild, Director, Goodchild Marine. "Dometic Marine offers a wide range of HVAC systems so they were immediately able to satisfy our brief."

The ORC Pilot Craft utilize a Marine Air self-contained Vector Compact (VCD) 27,000 BTU/hr air conditioner in the wheelhouse accommodation areas, ensuring the crew will remain cool (or warm) and to dry out gear.

Ingenious Design Fits Minimal Installation Space

The VCD delivers over two tons of capacity in a compact package with a small footprint. VCD units were engineered for R-410A, a proven and reliable environmentally safe refrigerant gas.



Because all of the main air conditioning components are installed on a single chassis, the VCD does not require additional space for a separate evaporating unit or linesets. They are ideal for installation under a settee or berth, in a locker or cabinet, or other convenient location.

Aboard the new ORC 171P Fast Pilot Craft, the VCD is installed under the helm, with duct routed to the supply-air grilles in the rear bulkhead to ensure effective cooling.

"[Dometic] has a hands-on approach to customer support, with a global network to provide service virtually anywhere in the world," summarized Goodchild.



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