

## Panama Canal Details Expansion

THE PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY (ACP) HAS ANNOUNCED ITS RECOMMENDATION to build a new lane along the Panama Canal that will double capacity and allow more traffic.

The Expansion Project would entail the creation of a new lane of traffic along the Canal through the construction of a new set of locks. Environmentally sound water-saving basins will be built alongside the new locks, which will reuse 60 percent of the water in each transit. This technology eliminates the need for constructing dams, flooding and displacing communities along the Canal's Watershed. This was also in keeping with ACP's adherence to sustainable development and environmental management best practices.

Since the handover of the Canal from the United States to Panama on December 31, 1999, the ACP has shifted its operations from a not-for-profit utility to a market-oriented business, therefore it is likely that those who use the Canal will pay for the estimated \$5.25 billion project through a graduated toll system.



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### ▶ BOTTOM'S UP!

PhaseCoat UFR is a new type of foul-release coating that claims to reduce maintenance costs, improve fuel efficiency and increase boat speed – all without using harmful metals. It is easily cleaned by sufficient movement through water and is one of the hardest foul-release coatings on the market today.



PhaseCoat UFR is applicable on virtually any surface where a foul release coating is desired, and because it doesn't corrode aluminum, it's good for out-drive coating where traditional antifouling coatings are unsuitable. It works with all hull types, including previously coated hulls.

It will not peel off from ice, floating debris or docking/trailing operations, including prolonged dry docking, and has a proven life span of up to three years. In cases of very extensive anchorage and organic growth, a sponge and water may be necessary to remove the growth.

The coating is VOC compliant, environmentally friendly with no hazardous materials and is safe and easy to apply by roll or brush. Additionally, its inherent slickness allows your vessel to become more efficient in the water and the company advertises that it improves fuel consumption by up to 15 percent and increases vessel speed up to 10 percent. [www.performanceoutdoor.com](http://www.performanceoutdoor.com)

### ▶ HOOD SAILMAKERS BRANCHES OUT

Hood Sailmakers USA introduces Hood Yachting Gear, a softer side to the sailmaking professionals. The technical leisure wear, developed with a unique combination of innovative design and over 50 years of sailing experience, is available in select stores. The yachting wear is primarily for men, and the versatility of the material allows it to perform double duty as sailing wear and comfort gear in the clubhouse. [www.hoodyachtinggear.com](http://www.hoodyachtinggear.com)



## Back Up for Disaster Prevention

A COMPUTER FAILURE ON BOARD A YACHT IS TROUBLESOME enough, but if the crash leads to file loss, the disruption to a yacht's operations could be disastrous. Very few yachts have an effective backup strategy, and even if they do, these systems often become outdated quickly, are easily lost and are sometimes unreadable.

YachtBackup, founded by marine IT consultant Neil Macdonald, claims to solve these issues. Macdonald saw the gap in the market and now offers an automated online backup system, which makes backing up essential files much easier. YachtBackup provides safe and secure storage on servers in two data centers that allow users to upload files at any time and to recover files to any internet-enabled computer.

Macdonald launched the service after seeing the consequences of a vital server or computer losing data. "Data recovery is expensive, time consuming and only partially successful," he says. "As I work with some of the largest yachts operating, I was always aware of the need for a good, reliable backup system. I have been on site several times after a vital computer has failed – losing accounts, e-mails, charter information, legal documents, everything. It was a disaster for the crew and set them back days."

The data being backed up is compressed before transfer and is made secure by use of an encryption key set by the user. It is then scrambled and transmitted to the storage servers, where it's stored in its encrypted state. The storage servers are themselves replicated to a second data center, ensuring that the files can always be accessed.

Software loaded on the target computer completely automates the backup. After the initial files are uploaded, on subsequent uploads, only the changed portion of the file is updated, cutting bandwidth and transmission time to a minimum. The same technology allows users to rewind to earlier versions of the same file if required, allowing a roll-back function of up to one year. An e-mail report is sent daily to keep users informed of the status of their backups. [www.yachtbackup.com](http://www.yachtbackup.com)

### ▶ SENSIBULB MAKES SENSE

Forget the normal halogen, xenon and other filament light bulbs and hook up with the new Sensibulb technology that uses only 1/6 to 1/8 the battery power of other on board light bulbs. The product – which also claims to have a 50,000-hour life expectancy – plugs into most existing overhead dome, berth and reading lamp fixtures and is the highest light output efficiency LED product to date. The bulb is available in soft white or red and comes with a built-in dimmer and optional mini-controller. [www.sailorssolutions.com](http://www.sailorssolutions.com)

