



Press Release

French company to demonstrate new multi-use military vessel at IDEX 2009

- *Zodiac Hurricane MACH 2 can be used by Police, Coast Guard, Special Ops Forces and Anti-Terrorism Units -*

Abu Dhabi, 16 February 2009: Capitalising on the improved facilities for naval demonstrations at International Defence Exhibition & Conference (IDEX 2009), Zodiac International, the French manufacturer of inflatable boats and rigid hull inflatable boats (RIBs), will showcase its new Zodiac Hurricane MACH 2 boat, at the Middle East's largest defence show, which opens next week in Abu Dhabi.

IDEX 2009 will be staged from February 22 to 26 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. The event, organised by Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) in association with the UAE Armed Forces GHQ, has received an all round boost thanks to significant investments undertaken by ADNEC to improve exhibit facilities at the venue.

The naval element in particular has been considerably enhanced for IDEX by dredging the Al Bateen channel opposite the exhibition centre's grandstand and the construction of a footbridge leading to the ADNEC quay. The enhanced facilities will enable warships up to frigate size to berth directly across the exhibition centre. In addition, facilities for traditional small craft demonstrations have been improved, allowing companies such as Zodiac, to showcase a range of smaller vessels such as patrol boats and landing craft designed for inshore and amphibious operations.

David Cazalot, Commercial Director of Zodiac said: "The Zodiac Hurricane range of RIBs are considered the finest craft of their type in the world. They are mission-specific and are used by the most knowledgeable and discriminating operators on the seas who demand the utmost in ruggedness and reliability."

The Zodiac Hurricane MACH 2 (Military Air Channelled Hull 2) is a high speed, fully versatile boat for all sea conditions. Its hull design reduces resistance and enhances directional stability for increased speed, fuel economy and safety. The MACH 2 is designed for the Police, Coast Guard, Special Operations Forces and Anti-Terrorism Units.



IDEX 2009 is held under the patronage of Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

More than 900 exhibitors from 50 countries will participate in IDEX 2009, which is expected to draw more than 45,000 visitors including government and industry leaders.

The show will feature land, sea and air vehicles and systems, radar, electronic warfare and electro-optic systems, weapons and ordnance, C4ISR, CBRN defence, homeland and internal security, simulation and training, logistics, medical and survival systems and personal equipment.

- Ends -

Background:

IDEX is one of the world's largest exhibitions catering for Land, Sea and Air Defence Systems and Equipment. More than 900 exhibitors from 50 countries are expected to attend the 2009 edition to be held 22 – 26 February, at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. The show will occupy all 12 halls of the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre's 55,000-square metre venue. 32 national pavilions and over a hundred military delegations from the Middle East region and around the world will participate.