

World premiere in 2013:

Yachtview 360° provides a 360° panoramic view to make yacht manoeuvres even in most difficult situations safe and easy

Inspired by bionics, Swiss researchers and German engineers have developed the world's first camera system to create a holistic 360° real-time panoramic view.

Amsterdam, 18. November 2013 – At the METS in Amsterdam, the ViaLuna Group Swiss AG will launch Yachtview 360°, a revolutionary high-end camera system for yachts from 15 meters up to 100 meters and more: **18.-21.11.2013 Hall 11 Stand 11.732**. The Yachtview 360° System is the world's first camera system that allows a seamless, real-time 360° panoramic view of a yacht from the helicopter perspective. Even under the most difficult conditions during mooring, anchoring, harbour manoeuvres, or in narrow sea passages with a high number of vessels, skippers can concentrate on the essentials to make the right decisions in real-time based on useful information.

Yachtview 360° Reduced to the Max

The triumphant progress of technology on yachts appears to be unstoppable. But the wealth of provided information misconstrues the very purpose: it makes it more difficult to take decisions instead of making them easier. However, Yachtview 360° frees the skippers from unnecessary burden by providing only information relevant to their decisions. Yachtview 360° consists of a minimum of four 170° wide angle Sony® cameras which are installed more or less invisible close to the side lights, at the front and the rear of the boat. Handmade of rust free durable submarine aluminum, these cameras deliver four high-precision pictures of the yacht surroundings straight down to the water plus the close environment of the yacht in real time. A powerful View Processing Unit (VPU) combines the individual pictures to one holistic 360° view of the yacht. Not even the latest models of luxury cars from Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Audi & Co. can offer such an impressive 360° surround view.

Inspired by Nature

For the development of Yachtview 360°, scientists and developers were inspired by the nature and transformed the evolution of bionics into a technology solution: The eyes of a dragon fly consist of thousands of compound eyes with a neuronal connection. This sophisticated visual system provides a unique 360° view. Many boats have several cameras installed, but each camera delivers only a single view on a single monitor. Single views on single monitors deliver lots of redundant information. This information overload creates more headache for the yacht owner than it provides him with useful information to make the right decisions in real-time.

If the eye of the dragon fly would work in that way, the insect would receive thousands of individual pictures which make it impossible to fly or to move at all. The bionics solution – the compound eyes are neuronal connected and complementary switched.

Real-time Interlinking of Images to a 360° View

The 170° wide angle Sony® camera is powered by a high-end DSP (Digital Signaling Processor) which enables automatic picture correction, automatic day and night mode, automatic white balance as well as dynamic exposure compensation by means of Digital Wide Dynamic Range (DWDR). Camera lenses are double IR coated and embedded in a beautiful hand-crafted body made of ultra-resistant submarine aluminum. The body is sealed and water proof. Lens distortion was measured with help of high precision lasers to enable software correction of production deviations. Once installed on the yacht, a Yachtview 360° technician starts a calibration of each camera to guarantee the highest possible accuracy for a seamless 360° view.

The View Processing Unit (VPU), the “brain” of the Yachtview 360° system, features an algorithm to combine the individual views into one holistic picture. And here comes another bionics inspiration into play, the hyperbolical view. This means, redundant and useless information are pre-filtered, the view is focused on the essentials: boat, surroundings, close environment. Are you imagining a helicopter view? Yachtview 360° offers even more: the most important areas of manoeuvres are displayed at a larger scale than those which are less important, which makes significant details especially easy to see. The skipper can see everything, but weighted to relevance. Most important areas for maneuvering are emphasized in the view in a way that you can see even more detail where details are important. For mooring purposes for example, the horizon or trees or houses in the background are displayed relatively small, whereas the edges of the yacht, the close environment of the boat or crew members standing at the railing are displayed bigger.

Even more, Yachtview 360° allows to display the 360° view on all kind of mobile devices such as iPad®, iPhone®, Android™ smartphones & tablets, PCs, TV screens with Wi-Fi® access and many more. So the captain or crew members can walk around while a mooring service has control over the boat or allow other crew members to check the maneuver as well. The view can even be remote controlled.

The new era of ease for mooring and maneuvering

According to naval and maritime insurance companies, mooring and maneuvers in the harbor create over 60% of all damages and collisions in the private yacht sector. These maneuvers cause a high stress level for captains, the impact of wind and tide and waves make it quite often very difficult to avoid a collision. And, are the distance

information from crew members (quite often very unexperienced) correct? Small errors with a massive impact, the domino effect starts

Yachtview 360° is a disruptive technology which helps to reduce the number of unsolicited incidents, collisions and other accidents dramatically – this is of special interest for charter yachts. Yachtview 360° delivers a unique 360° view experience to ease the life of the captain, reduce the stress in critical situations and increase significantly the safety and security level. The VPU provides a 360° view of the boat on the central control display / panel on the flybridge or in the command bridge. The captain has a holistic view of the edges of the boat, the distance to the quay wall, other boats, obstacles or people in the water – from all angles, all sides! He feels being in the center of his boat, every millimeter of movements is shown in real time.

Developed in Switzerland, hand crafted in Germany

Research and development of Yachtview 360° is based in Switzerland. Responsible for production of the high precision solution are naval precision engineers in the city of Glashütte, which is world known for its history and expertise in the development and production of nautical high-precision instruments since the 1850s.

Yachtview 360° is available in two versions. The Silver edition with brushed silver cameras delivers the basic 360° view and is perfectly suited for smaller yachts and charter yachts. The Platinum edition with specially treated anodized cameras and a more powerful VPU (faster CPU, more storage capacity) offers additional features such as a video function to capture the best moments while on the sea or a Black Box recording feature with a storage structure with time scaled memory when things go horribly wrong: the last 15 minutes are automatically captured in a high resolution mode, previous periods with lower temporal resolution. In case of an accident, the yacht owner can immediately send the image material to the insurance company. Software Updates via the WiFi module will make the Yachtview 360° a long term investment.

About Yachtview 360°

The ViaLuna Group Swiss AG (Gansingen) launches Yachtview 360°, a revolutionary high-end camera system for yachts from 15 meters up to 100 meters and more which delivers a unique real-time 360° surround view of the boat from the helicopter perspective. Yachtview 360° has been developed by researchers in Switzerland, the production is done in a precision mechanics factory in Glashütte (Germany). Even under the most difficult conditions during mooring, anchoring, harbour manoeuvres, or in narrow sea passages with a high number of vessels, skippers can concentrate on the essentials, and maintain complete control of the yacht based on useful information.

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Find more information on www.yachtview360.eu

Press contact: press@yachtview360.eu