



21 September 2005

### **CONCEPT BOAT TURNS TO 'TOWING' FOR 2006** **New Concept Boat theme unveiled at the Southampton Boat Show**

The waiting is over for budding boating designers as the theme for the 2006 Concept Boat Competition was announced today at the Southampton Boat Show, in association with ITV Meridian.

Competitors will be asked to submit a design under this year's theme of 'Tow a Boat', where judges will be looking for a craft that can be towed behind a family car. The annual competition, now in its fifth year, intends to encourage interest in the designing of boats of the future and to demonstrate alternatives to the global small craft industry.

Organised by the British Marine Federation and supported by the Royal Institute of Naval Architects, the competition is open to anyone from boat builders and naval architects to private boat owners and students. This year's competition is open to designs for both recreational and commercial craft up to 24 metres in length, that can be towed behind a mid-size 4x4 (SUV) or large family car.

The competition is divided into three key categories:

- **Concept and Design:** detailed designs complete with comprehensive technical details including specification of towing regulations, stability and powering (individuals or teams)
- **Pure Concept:** designs with a basic summary of the entry (individuals or teams)
- **Schools:** (individual or teams)

Successful entrants will be in with a chance of taking home a share of the £7,000 prize fund. Shortlisted designs will be on display at the 2006 Southampton Boat Show while the lucky winner will be unveiled at the famous London Boat Show in January 2007 along with a model prototype of their design, which will be built and displayed.

The judging panel will be looking for new and innovative designs that create a practical, safe and stylish boat for towing. Competitors are invited to demonstrate their creativity, the craft may fold out, modules may slot together and it can even inflate, the only restriction is your imagination.

James Gower, Marketing Director at the British Marine Federation commented, " We are very excited to be going into the fifth year of Concept Boat with the competition growing in popularity each year. This year's competition is already set to be bigger than ever.

We are continually amazed by the great creativity and innovation of the entries, making the judging increasingly difficult."

For more information and details of how to enter please visit [www.conceptboat.com](http://www.conceptboat.com)

ENDS

For further information please contact Natasha Grant or Gillian Stark on 020 7492 0977 or email [Natasha.grant@77pr.co.uk](mailto:Natasha.grant@77pr.co.uk) or [Gillian.stark@77pr.co.uk](mailto:Gillian.stark@77pr.co.uk) or the Show's Media Centre on 023 8022 2903.

- Shortlisted Concept Boat 2005 entries are being exhibited at the Southampton Boat Show in association with ITV Meridian. The show runs from 16-25 September 2005. For further details visit [www.southamptonboatshow.com](http://www.southamptonboatshow.com).

**Notes to editors:**

- The Concept Boat 2006 competition is organised by the British Marine Federation and Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA). Entries to design a concept boat of the future were welcomed from all people interested in small craft, whether professional or amateur. The winners will be announced in January 2007 at the London Boat Show. For further details visit [www.conceptboat.com](http://www.conceptboat.com)
- The Southampton Boat Show is organised by National Boat Shows Ltd (NBS). NBS is a subsidiary of the British Marine Federation (BMF), the trade association for the UK boating industry. The Southampton Boat Show is in association with ITV Meridian.

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| 16 September 2005    | 10.00-19.00 (Press & Preview Day) |
| 17-24 September 2005 | 10.00-19.00                       |
| 25 September 2005    | 10.00-18.00                       |

- The British Marine Federation is the trade body for the UK marine industry and represents the industry both domestically and abroad. It has over 1,500 members, many of which are small businesses and works to promote boating and the boating industry to the public, government and other stakeholders. The British Marine Federation is the sister organisation of National Boat Shows Ltd, which runs the London and Southampton Boat Shows each January and September.