

## Press Release



### **Solar Robotic Boats Invade Delaware** 10/8/2007

A fleet of high-tech robotic boats from the future were unveiled to an enthusiastic crowd this past Sunday at the University of Delaware's Coast Day celebration held at the Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, Delaware. Zinger Enterprises, Inc. of Laurel, Delaware introduced to the public their new product line of marine robotic autonomous surface vehicles (ASV). Carl Schirtzinger (President) Zinger Enterprises, Inc., the Schirtzinger family, John Higinbotham (Vehicle Onboard System Engineer) of Emergent Space Technologies, Inc., and teammates from First State Fiberglass were on hand to discuss this innovative marine technology with numerous state and local government agencies and the general public.

The event provided an excellent forum for visitors to learn about marine robots and their important role in monitoring and protecting our rivers, bays, and oceans. The marine robotic boat exhibit featured a Zinger Voyager class solar autonomous surface vehicle on static display. This platform will soon be delivered to a team of researchers at NASA to support ongoing research and monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms and Carbon Air-Sea Fluxes. The exhibit also demonstrated live science and engineering telemetry data streaming in from a vehicle deployed on the water in Laurel, Delaware, providing visitors with a first-hand look at remote vehicle monitoring and control.

Visitors also explored the next generation of marine vehicles currently under development by the Zinger team. These vehicles can support a wide array of applications including weather forecasting, storm tracking, environmental monitoring, search and rescue, and homeland security. The Zinger team is collaborating with colleagues from NASA, the United States Life Saving Association (USLA), and the Marine Education Research and Rehabilitation Institute (MERR) to develop robotic solutions to monitor the environment, and support rescue of humans and marine mammals. All of the marine vehicles on display utilize solar power to provide

for clean, quiet, and environmentally friendly propulsion. The vehicles make use of the GPS and Iridium satellite constellations for global navigation and communication. Vehicles displayed at the exhibit are designed, built, and tested in Laurel, Delaware. The Delmarva Peninsula is the third most difficult area in the US to evacuate and provides a natural proving ground for this marine technology.



Cadets from the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) supported the exhibit and proudly posted the colors. Cadets received a "Star Spangled Banner" flag flown over Ft. McHenry from a representative of the USLA at the commencement of the exhibit.

Representative from the CAP, USLA, Zinger Enterprises, and Emergent Space Technologies will be at the US Capital in Washington DC on October 10<sup>th</sup> with marine technology displays for representatives from various government agencies. The event will demonstrate cooperation and interoperability of these organizations from aboard the Monmouth University Mobile Command and Communication vehicle. Such vehicles are essential tools for local, state, and federal agencies tasked with responding to natural and man-made disasters such as hurricanes.

