



Tiny Handset Shifts Big Boats

The same principals which apply to the berthing of ocean going ships, has been applied to the innovative Ship Controller. This is a small handheld wireless device that allows a skipper to manoeuvre his boat without having to be at the helm station.

There are some big advantages in having a Ship Controller at hand. The most obvious one is that handling a big boat at the dock or marina, is now truly a single person operation.

And in situations where a big boat has to be hauled up just a half meter to connect a springer line, the Ship Controller takes the grunt work out of the job.

Ship Controller comprises a hand held remote control unit which is powered by batteries. There is also a main unit which is installed permanently to the boat's electrical system. Ship Controller is compatible with any vessel which has drive by wire, or electronic engine management systems.

Ship Controller is available in three different models. In the various formats, Ship Controller allows the operator to have complete control of the main engine/s plus bow/stern thrusters.



Australian distributor Lewis Marine has already installed several Ship Controller units for owners of large vessels; these include a 50' Clipper, 57 Princess, 54 Alaska and 42 Jeanneau.

“The initial customers are delighted with their new Ship Controller technology,” said Hughie Lewis of Lewis Marine.

“These are big boats that are heavy to shift at the dock. With the Ship Controller, boaters can literally tie up 30 tonnes of boat on their own. It’s a huge benefit to people to be able to go boating this way.”

On a technical level the Ship Controller is an intelligent piece of equipment. The handheld device has an RF link which communicates with the main unit fitted on board the vessel. The in-built safety features operate on many levels to ensure safe operation.

For instance, each controller has a unique factory pre-set code so that it can only exchange data with its matched main unit. The remote control unit features arrows and other symbols next to the buttons to make control very easy and logical.

The two most popular models for the Australian market are the Ship Controller 305 and Ship Controller 105. Both are fully featured units, with control for twin engines bow thrusters and an anchor winch control, while the 305 also has stern thrusters control.

The Ship Controller kit begins at \$3970 with on-board installation costing approximately another \$1000.

Dealer and agent enquiries welcome.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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