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## SAIL Magazine Announces 2017 Pittman Innovation Awards

**Essex, CT, January 11, 2017**—Named after Freeman K. Pittman, *SAIL*'s long-time technical editor who passed away from Lou Gehrig's disease in 1996, *SAIL*'s annual Pittman Innovation Awards recognize exceptional products developed by the sailing industry. *SAIL*'s team of judges—executive editor Adam Cort, cruising editor Charles J. Doane, technical editor Jay Paris and electronics editor Ben Ellison—roamed boat shows near and far to uncover the 15 best of the best. “Whether it’s a cutting-edge piece of electronics or a new take on folding propellers, the sailing industry never fails to continue to push the envelope,” said Cort, summing up his take on today’s equipment manufacturers. Coverage of the 2017 Pittman Innovation Awards appears on page 58 of the February issue of *SAIL* and on [sailmagazine.com](http://sailmagazine.com).

The 15 Pittman Innovation Award winners for 2017 are: In the **Cruising** category, Mantus' Mini Scuba System, Vetus' ILT Universal Tank Inspection Ports and GoFree (a brand created by Navico) Connected Vessel; in the **Safety** category, PanPan's MOB Beacon & App, McMurdo's Smartfind G8 AIS EPIRB and Standard Horizon's GX6500 VHF/AIS Transponder; in the **Racing** category, Garmin's Nautix In-View Display and Ino-Rope's Ino-Ending 3.6; in the **Systems** category, Torqueedo Pod Motors, Forespar PureWater+, Flexofold's Two-Blade Composite Prop and Fireboy-Xintex with Novec; in the **Electronics** category, Nautic Alert Decison Platform & Insight, Furuno's DRS4D-NXT Radar and Airmar's DX900+ Multilog.

This year's **Overall Winner, PanPan's MOB Beacon and App System**, was selected by a panel of judges that included Nigel Calder (systems expert and author), Tom Burden (author of the West Marine "advisor" series of articles) and Gerry Douglas (chief designer and vice-president of Catalina Yachts). In reaching their decision, the judges said they were especially impressed by the product's ease of use, a critical concern with any kind of safety gear.

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