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MOTION CONTROL

CMC Marine's Argo helps to ensure smooth sailing.

BY DAVID SCHMIDT

CMC MARINE'S ARGO is the first integrated control system that leverages a yacht's stabilizers, trim controls and rudder to yield a smoother, safer and fuel-efficient ride. Argo works with other CMC Marine-built gear, including its Stabilis Electra or Waveless fin-control systems and its Directa steering system. Argo uses its networked sensor to detect vessel motion, which it autonomously balances by actuating as many as eight individual ride-control surfaces. While the system is largely reactionary, its embedded algorithms monitor seaway trends and help Argo anticipate vessel behavior. ¶ Without Argo, a yacht's trim-control surfaces and rudder often spend their lives

fighting each other in a constant war of microcorrections, where one system senses and then corrects for the other's activities, oftentimes at the expense of course stability and a vessel's overall fuel efficiency. With Argo, this negative feedback loop is replaced by coordination among the ride-control surfaces. ¶ When asked about the biggest challenge the company overcame when creating the system, Buddy Morgan, CMC Marine's vice president of sales, pointed to numerous complexities. "I'd say the development of the software when considering the myriad sea conditions that [can] be encountered, plus the unique features of every yacht," he says. ¶

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