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## Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 May 2017

### **2017 AUSTRALIAN MARINE INDUSTRY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

After a successful first day at the ASMEX 2017 conference, the Australian Marine Industry last night awarded business excellence in the industry at the annual Awards Gala Presentation Dinner held in Sanctuary Cove. Over 260 guests gathered to acknowledge and support the outstanding achievements of businesses in the Australian Marine Export, Superyacht and Commercial Marine Industries. The night was enjoyed by all with great entertainment and delicious food.

Rainman Desalination took out the coveted Exporter of the Year Award along with two other awards the Best Marine Industry Export Performance – Medium Exporter and Best Marine Industry Export Marketing Strategy for their continued growth and their sharp marketing strategies. Rainman's export sales increased significantly over the past 12 months with revenue growing considerably over this period to make export revenue 80% of their business.

Ms Maryanne Edwards AIMEX CEO said "We received an overwhelming number of entries this year of such high calibre which appears to reflect the positive growth in the industry."

18 entries were received from Queensland with 7 of those coming in from the Gold Coast; 11 Entries were received from New South Wales; 2 from Western Australia; 2 from Victoria and 1 from Tasmania.

Justin Parer MD of BSE Maritime Solutions received recognition for his contribution to the commercial marine industry being awarded the Industry Champion for the Commercial Sector. Justin Parer has been involved in the commercial maritime industry for nearly 20 years as Owner and Managing Director of BSE Maritime Solutions.

Paul Darrouzet Marketing and Business Development Manager for Abell Point Marina was recognised as the 2017 Superyacht Industry Champion. Paul has been a keen driver to engage with key Ministers in the industry and has been passionate about gaining greater access for superyachts to the Great Barrier Reef.

Trenton Gay CEO of Gold Coast City Marina and Shipyard was awarded as Industry Champion for the Marine Export Sector. Trent is a staunch lobbyist driving home key industry issues at local, state and federal government levels on matters such as dredging, Gold Coast customs clearance and recently supporting the lobby for changes to the Australian Superyacht charter regulations.

Every year the AIMEX board like to recognise the significant efforts and achievements of people or companies within the industry that have stood out for one reason or another. This year the AIMEX board acknowledged the Superyacht Australia charter working group for their outstanding contribution to lobbying government to allow foreign flagged superyachts the ability to charter in Australian waters.

**Superyacht Australia Charter Working Group:**

Kane Bygrave - Aurora Global Logistics

David Good - Ports North

Cameron Bray- Northrop & Johnson Australia

Jo Howard - Ocean Alliance

Luke Mc Caul - Abell Point Marina

**Other winners include:**

Most innovative Marine Industry Exported Product or Service:

Down Under Rally

Best Marine Industry Export Performance – Small Exporter:

Life Cell Marine Safety

Best Marine Industry Export performance – Large Exporter:

Marine Engineering Consultants

Superyacht Industry Business of the Year – Service Provider:

Abell Point Marina

Superyacht Industry Business of the year – Manufacturer:

Echo Yachts Pty Ltd

Commercial Marine Manufacturer:

Steber International

Commercial Marine Industry Service Provider:

Sydney City Marine

Most Innovative Commercial Marine Industry Product or Service:

Britton Maritime Services

Highly Commended Most Innovative Commercial Marine Industry Product or Service:

SOS Marine

The awards night was a true showcase of the best of what Australia has to offer and gave ultimate recognition to these companies.

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The Australian International Marine Export Group (AIMEX) is the peak body for the Australian Marine Export Industry, which generates over 1.2 billion dollars a year for the Australian economy. Its primary purpose is to develop and promote Australia's thriving Marine Industry to the world.