

November 19, 2007

SMART Press Release – For Immediate Release:

Four representatives of the American shipbuilding industry participated in a trade mission to Italy last week to attend the SMART (Ship Manufacture Alliance Research and Technologies) 2007 International Workshop, held biannually in La Spezia, Italy. The delegation was organized by the Miami Office of the Italian Trade Commission. The Italian Trade Commission's goal is to act as a bridge between Italy and the United States in order to increase cooperation between Italian and American companies. The Trade Commission's goal for this trade mission was to foster new business relationships between Italian and American companies in the marine industry.

SMART (Ship Manufacture Alliance Research & Technologies) is an international workshop and trade show, co-organized by the Italian Trade Commission, dedicated to boat manufacturing, shipbuilding, and technologies related to those sectors. The objective of the event was to promote technology exchange and process and product innovation. The workshop was divided into two segments; the first two days consisted of 1,400 pre-scheduled one to one meetings while on the last day the exhibition was open to the public as a trade show. Collateral events such as a gala dinner, piano concert, and a tour of the nearby Cinque Terre were offered to the workshop participants.

In this fourth edition of SMART, 116 companies attended, representing eleven countries; Italy, USA, China, Turkey, Argentina, Sweden, Poland, Germany, England, Denmark, and Holland. The American participants included, Burger Boat Company, Bludworth Marine LLC, Gulf County Ship Building Inc., and Kelly Marine Service Inc.

Currently the Italian Trade Commission has six offices in the United States. The Miami office is focused on promoting the Italian yacht, ship, and boat industries in the American market. The Miami office is also responsible for the hotel contracting and sporting goods industries. The Trade Commissioner at the Miami office is Carlo Ferrari.

Contact Info:

4000 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 590

Coral Gables, FL 33146

Tel: 305-461-3896

Fax: 786-497-8900

[www.italtrade.com](http://www.italtrade.com)

[miami.miami@ice.it](mailto:miami.miami@ice.it)