

## Bluetooth Pilot Interface for Ship Pilots

Sep 10, 2008

**AUSTIN, TEXAS** – Raven Industries, the manufacturer of lightweight Portable DGPS Pilot Systems, is pleased to introduce the Bluetooth Pilot Interface (BPI): a Class 1 product that gives ship pilots a quality Bluetooth wireless device that transmits data from the ship's Pilot Port Interface (PPI) to a computer.

The BPI features the Wire Wizard that automatically corrects mis-wired pilot plugs, a rechargeable battery, and small lightweight packaging. The integrated status lights, automatic baud-rate detection, and a Bluetooth data link provide an easy-to-use, quick-setup solution to transfer the Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponder data to computers.

“Designed from scratch using our 10 years of portable pilot system experience, this is far superior to anything in the marketplace,” remarks Dr. Darrell McCauley, Operations Manager at the Raven Austin Technology Center. “We expect rapid adoption of this product domestically among our currently installed base and internationally as we expand into those markets.”

When ships come to port from the open sea, pilots from the local association board vessels and assume navigation control to dock. After loading and/or unloading, local pilots navigate ships to open seas, where ship captains resume full control. Portable pilot systems provide ship pilots with a familiar set of navigation charts and electronics to aid in navigation. Raven retains the majority of market share for portable pilot systems in the United States.