



Schmitt Marine

DELIVERING PERFORMANCE, RELIABILITY AND TRUST
IN THE NEW PRIMUS CF WHEEL

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Schmitt Marine, Cobra International and Talon Technology Develop Steering Wheel for Yachts.

Schmitt Marine has been in business for more than 60 years, and when it looks for an innovative new material for its steering wheel systems, it needs to be sure that it is making a solid, safe and performance related switch. Specialists in polyurethane and stainless steel wheels for boats, Schmitt Marine has looked to combine the classic style of its steel designs, in this case the Vision Elite, with a strong, lightweight and beautiful hybrid composite core. The Primus CF takes the overall look of the Schmitt Marine range and adds an updated styling look that discerning owners expect from a luxury grade carbon fiber steering wheel, at a smart price point.



Creating balance – matching composite design factors with production ease.

With Schmitt Marine looking for an entirely new construction method for the Primus CF wheel, they needed an engineer who could both think and generate ideas in lightweight composites, and also work alongside the long term manufacturer to create a smart solution. Geoff Germon – CEO, Talon Technology Pty. Ltd and Adjunct Professor of Design at the University of Canberra – proved to be just the guy to speak with. Geoff has developed a broad spectrum of composite products, often for those like Schmitt Marine with no previous history in composites, with a focus on efficient lightweighting, ticking every client specification and secure production supply chains. Cobra has seen massive benefits in working alongside concept designers and engineering companies that really understand composites, helping to create components that just make more sense to be made in FRP.

Uncompromising safety as composites take the load.

Taking on a major switch to composite materials, for a safety critical component like a steering wheel, is a key issue for Schmitt Marine. Fortunately, much of the safety work for the Primus CF steering wheel is a test program for peak loads, and Schmitt Marine understands this evaluation well. With its NMMA Type Accepted certification, Schmitt Marine has added their carbon look wheel to their database of US products and has also ensured that CE Certification is in place for European shipyards too.

“What Talon and Cobra have done is show just how easy it is to switch to composites; if you use the correct people,”



Combining Schmitt Marine branding with the unique Cobra carbon feel.

The visual feel of the seamless Primus CF wheel takes strong focus from Cobra's own carbon fiber automated parts business Cobra Advanced Composites (CAC), blending a stylish sophistication with exceptionally precise carbon fiber lines. The clear carbon prepreg skin surface, and its UV resistant black Santoprene™ rubber grip patches, tells only a part of the composite story. Formed around a backbone of multiaxial glass fabrics, which help disperse energy from high-energy impacts, the carbon outer framework perfectly covers the toughened epoxy liner. Cobra has concentrated much of its work on being able to transfer the parts from tool to PU clear coating with a minimum of process steps and materials.



“Working closely with the builder in Thailand has shown us the innovative design and production process gains that can be used to keep costs balanced and improve performance. Thanks to Cobra's commitment to product quality and on time delivery, we're creating a stronger and lighter future for our customers.”

Jed Schober, Product Development Specialist, Schmitt Marine.





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