

NEWS

Modular Jet Propulsion

Taking a concept from the automotive industry regarding modularized componetry, Outboard Propulsion Systems LLC (OPS) has introduced a completely self-contained engine and waterjet package called JetPac™. JetPac is designed to fit the majority of boats in the 15' to 25' range without any hull modifications. The entire JetPac unit simply bolts onto the transom with a much better distribution of weight than a typical outboard engine.

JetPac utilizes a stock gasoline or diesel automotive engine coupled to a large-diameter (250 mm) waterjet. The engine and waterjet are completely enclosed in a rugged fiberglass shell or pod. Unlike conventional waterjet packages, JetPac's engine is mounted on top of the jet, and is coupled to the drive by a toothed Kevlar belt system.

The transom mounted pod enhances both steering and sea worthiness. The fiberglass pod has positive buoyancy, thereby minimizing drive system weight aft. The added buoyancy allows the craft to plane quickly. Depending on weight and deadrise of the boat, it can provide from 250 to 500 pounds of buoyancy.

JetPac's waterjet drive is built with #316 stainless steel and includes a sealed shaft housing and sealed, grease-packed bearings. The JetPac is available with a 2.8-liter, in-line 4-cylinder, 150 hp diesel engine or a 5.7-liter, 275-hp gasoline engine.

Engine cooling is through a pump-powered, closed-loop heat exchanger thus protecting the interior of the engine from contact with seawater.



The fiberglass shell that houses the entire engine/drive unit is engineered for over 1,000 pounds of positive buoyancy. It has a baffled air intake system and provides easy access to the engine for maintenance and service. The entire drive system is located above the hull's keel line. Probably the biggest advantage is complete isolation of all engine fluids from contaminating the environment.

JetPac is now an engine option with Zodiac, Key West Boats, and United Marine. The North Carolina Marine Patrol has become so interested in the unit that it is taking delivery of a 275-hp, gas JetPac on a Jones Brothers boat for evaluation purposes. This model combines a direct-injected, Chevrolet Vortec 5.7-liter V-8 with a 10 inch, 316 stainless steel waterjet.

The JetPac is built by Outboard Propulsion System, LLC, 1815 N. US Highway 1, Ormond Beach, FL 32174. Phone (386) 676-7685. Website: www.jetpac.us.



New Marine Diesel, True V-8 Replacement

MarineDiesel-USA based in Stillwater, OK has begun offering a new line of marine diesel engines from 170 to 400 horsepower. These engines are based on the Optimizer 6500 V-8 engine produced by AM General, best known for manufacturing the Hummer and military Humvee vehicles. From day one, MarineDiesel's product development focused on the marine repower industry and OEM installations. Boasting one of the lowest fuel consumption ratings, this family of engines defines and delivers new levels of expectation to the marine industry.



Although the Optimizer 6500 engine shares many similarities to the previous General Motors (GM) 6.5L engine, these new MarineDiesel engines are not built on the old GM 6.5L diesel engine platform. The GM 6.2L and 6.5L diesels were never intended to be high performance diesel engines and therefore would never have been capable of supporting the rigorous duty cycles achieved with today's Optimizer 6500 engines.

MarineDiesel's custom supercharging system allows optimum performance at all levels of the rpm range. Its large displacement yields higher torque than smaller displacement, turbo-charged engines. MarineDiesel is the only true, drop-in replacement diesel engine for gasoline V-8's. When replacing a 5.0L, 5.7L, 7.4L or 8.2L gasoline V-8, the MarineDiesel product will fit the drive, front engine mounts, exhaust system, and most wiring harnesses. These engines are approximately the same weight and size as the old engine.

To date, more than 50,000 of the latest design Optimizer 6500 engines have been produced and sold, yielding some of the industries lowest warranty and service claim rates.

For information, contact Performance Product Technologies, MarineDiesel-USA, 1414 S. Sangre Rd., Stillwater, OK 74074. Phone: (866) 335-3396. Website: www.marinedieselusa.com.