



Back and forth

As our Global Review in this issue underlines, 2007 was a busy year for the international marina market with new and refurbished marinas opening around the world, marinas changing hands, and planning proposals submitted and secured. Space restrictions limited the review to a 'snapshot' format, highlighting just some of the myriad of interesting marina developments and not able to cover any of the new marina equipment introduced during the year.

The year was, however, equally good for innovative products and although they are sure to gain following in 2008 and catch our eye a second time around, here's a brief summary to complete the album.

The boatyard equipment sector was particularly dynamic with the release of Marine Travelift's MT 25BFM II hoist and the new Mariner forklifts; Vermeer's YCR-20FH yacht crane; the Marina Bull 2 from Wiggins Lift Co; and Wise Handling's Multi-Purpose Hoist.

New pontoon systems were unveiled: the mobile pontoon system, Mobi-Deck (now installed and featured on p. 43), the Capri system from Superior Marinas and the Premium range from Marinetek. Company mergers also took place in this sector with SF Marina of Sweden purchasing Pontona to create SF Pontona and Norwegian company Orsta Marina Systems merging its Swedish subsidiary company with Svenska Flytpontoner of Stockholm. Pontoon mooring system specialist, Seaflex, introduced an upgraded heavy-duty model in November.

Dockside pedestal manufacturers also contributed to the year's innovations. Electro-Tec launched its VX series; Eaton Marina Power & Lighting redesigned various models in its range; Rolec perfected the Spinnaker pedestal; and Marine Technologies of Australia released the Sterling range.

2007 was also a busy year for the *Marina World* team. In addition to many editorial trips and visits to marinas various, we attended several key conferences – IMBC in Tampa, Florida, the 2007 UK Marina Conference and Marinas 2007 on the Gold Coast in Australia. 2008 promises to be equally active. Please catch up with us at the International Marina & Boatyard Conference (19th-22nd January, Atlanta, USA); the Mumbai International Boat Show 'Development of Boating' Conference (28th February, India); the Dubai Boat Show (11th-15th March); and the International Marina Conference, IMC 2007 (25th-28th May, Oostende, Belgium).

At these forthcoming events, we will continue to discuss the most important industry issues and learn from others about national and regional ideas, developments and – doubtless – problems and challenges. If you are not already a committed conference attendee, I urge you to take part in the 08 'marina conference season'.

Happy networking and all the best for 2008.

Carol Fulford
Editor



First marina opens

SAMOA: An evening full of celebration and festivities marked the opening in December of a new marina and floating restaurant on the Samoan island of Apia. A first for Samoa, the facility caters to local residents and tourists alike as it offers a much needed boost to slip availability on the island.

Lack of mooring facilities around Samoa has limited local economic growth and kept boaters from visiting the area. The new marina is an effort by the Samoan Port Authority to encourage boating, boost tourism and generate alternative revenues.

Apia Marina, designed and built by Bellingham Marine New Zealand (BMNZ), is protected by a 40m floating wave attenuator and 170m rock wall. The basin

was dredged to a depth of 2.5m to provide deep water access for large vessels. The marina has 50 full service berths ranging in length from 10.5m-30m, and a fuelling station, showers and customs facilities are available at the port building.

"The new marina is a tremendous asset to Samoa and meets a great need," said BMNZ project manager, John Papesch. A second phase of the marina is planned, which will add a further 30 berths.

Action needed to boost slip numbers

USA: Engineering firm Applied Technology & Management (ATM) has called for action to address slip shortage in US coastal communities where demand for boat slips far exceeds supply. "The bottom line is that the slip shortage will only be alleviated by adding more slips and/or drystacks, likely through a combination of private and public marina expansions," said Sam Phlegar, senior vice president and director of ATM's marine division in a statement issued last November. "Communities will need to plan wisely and devise creative solutions to ensure that all boaters continue to have access to the water," he added.

According to ATM, several factors are contributing to the situation, including: rising waterfront property values that tempt marina owners to sell to condo and hotel developers; larger boats that take up more marina space; environmental regulations restricting marina construction; and replacement of public marinas with dockominiums.

The lack of berths is detrimental to the economies of coastal communities. In Florida, where the public berth shortage is most acute, some possible remedies have been proposed, such as: property tax breaks for marinas and boatyards; temporary fee increases in boat registration or fuel surcharges to fund public access; building

more drystacks and more offshore mooring 'fields'; and improving the permit system to make it easier for existing marinas to expand or renovate.

Although the slip shortage is worsening in many areas, some communities have implemented solutions. For example, the City of Miami – with more than 1,000 public berths at three fully occupied marinas – is expanding capacity at its popular Dinner Key Marina by constructing a 225-vessel offshore mooring facility. Such large, innovative projects are lengthy, complex endeavours that require extensive planning but ATM believes these efforts are the answer to the problem.