

PRESS RELEASE

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Island Packet Receives Two U.S. Awards for Innovation

Island Packet Yacht's new motorsailer, the 41' SP Cruiser, has recently won two U.S. awards for innovation. Selected from numerous new sailboat designs this year, it received both *SAIL* magazine's "Editor's Choice Award for Innovation" in January and the National Marine Manufacturers Association "Innovation Award for Sailboats" at the Miami International Boat Show in February.



Like many motorsailers, the SP Cruiser's enclosed deckhouse offers year round cruising comfort, and a self tending sailplan and powerful engine allow it to travel great distances with easy control and modest fuel consumption.



With twin cockpits (one aft and one forward of the deckhouse) and an interior arrangement that provides exceptional livability in this size range, the SP Cruiser is unique. Most notable, however, is a new sail handling system that makes it the first "popular sized" sailboat with the availability of "push button" sail controls. The new StoWinch™ sheeting system, a joint development effort between Lewmar, Inc. and Island Packet Yachts, brings a new level of convenience to sailing and ultimately opens

the door to fully automated sailing. Developed specifically for the SP Cruiser, the new system appeals not only to cruisers looking to stay in sailing longer, but also to new sailors wishing for simplified sail controls and increased enjoyment of sailing in general.

Island Packet's V.P. of Sales and Marketing, Bill Bolin, adds, "Growing our sailing industry is going to come in the form of more models like the SP Cruiser that deliver to a wider market through innovation and new features that increase the accessibility and desirability of our sport. We think the SP Cruiser represents a large and bold step in that direction, and these two awards for innovation support this view."



Founded in 1979, Island Packet has built over 2,200 yachts in their modern 10-acre production facility in Largo, FL. Current models range from 37 to 52 feet in length, and are sold exclusively through a select network of dealers in the US, Europe and Australia.