

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SNAME ANNOUNCES 2009 MEDAL AWARD WINNERS

Four Recognized for Outstanding Contributions To Naval Architecture, Marine Engineering

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (USA), OCTOBER 22, 2009 – The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) today recognized four individuals for their outstanding contributions to naval architecture and marine engineering.

The annual achievement medals were presented at The SNAME Annual Banquet, held in conjunction with the SNAME 2009 Annual Meeting and Expo in Providence, Rhode Island.

One of the society's most prestigious awards, the **Vice Admiral "Jerry" Land Medal** for outstanding accomplishment in the marine field, was presented to Robert D. Somerville (pictured right), Chairman and Chief Executive officer of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS).



Robert D. Somerville
Land Medal Awardee

As Chairman of ABS, he has overseen a period of extraordinary growth in the organization's activities, creating many hundreds of new job opportunities for naval architects and marine engineers.

As Chairman of ABS and Chairman of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), he used his position and time to introduce new, technically superior standards for the design of the principal commercial ship types. This included his championing of the most fundamental change in the nature of ship classification since its inception with the adoption in December 2006 of the IACS Common Structural Rules for tankers and bulk carriers.

He is a graduate of the Maine Maritime Academy with a B.S. in Marine Engineering and the Management Development Program at Harvard Business School. He has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from both the Maine Maritime Academy and Webb Institute in recognition of his service to the industry.

The **David W. Taylor Medal** for notable achievement in naval architecture and/or marine engineering was presented to Joseph P. Fischer, President, Bay Engineering.

The **William H. Webb Medal** for outstanding contributions to education in naval architecture, marine or ocean engineering was presented to William S. Vorus, chairman of the school of naval architecture and marine engineering at the University of New Orleans.

The **Blakely Smith Medal** for outstanding accomplishment in ocean engineering was presented to Dietmar R. Deter, owner of Nautex, Inc.

SNAME is an internationally recognized nonprofit technical society of individual members serving the maritime industry dedicated to advancing the art, science, and practice of naval architecture, shipbuilding, ocean engineering, and marine engineering.

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