

“Where’s the Wheel?” Schaefer Yachts Shows New Pleasure Yacht with Volvo Penta Joystick-Only Steering

(CHESAPEAKE, Va.) – Aug. 6, 2018 – The new Schaefer 580 motoryacht has no steering wheel at the helm station – only a [Volvo Penta](#) joystick.

The new joystick-controlled motoryacht, powered by twin Volvo Penta 670 hp IPS800s, made its debut at the recent 2018 Rio Boat Show.

Márcio Schaefer, CEO of Brazil’s largest yachtbuilder, said: “At Schaefer Yachts, we have had a long-standing relationship with Volvo Penta for over a decade. When we designed the Schaefer 580 with Volvo Penta IPS we decided to go with a joystick-only steering control system. Our team worked very closely with the Volvo Penta engineers, and in roughly two months we developed this joystick-only steering system, eliminating the wheel altogether. In our opinion, this innovation will improve maneuverability and bring a new level of ergonomics to the helm station.”

“We pride ourselves on being innovators at Volvo Penta,” said Ron Huibers, president of Volvo Penta of the Americas. “We were the first to introduce IPS and the first to offer joystick for docking and driving. Wheel-free joystick-only steering with IPS is the next logical step in our Easy Boating strategy to harness new technical solutions to make it easier for owners to operate their boats and enjoy the experience of being on the water.”

“We’re especially proud to partner with our long-time customer Schaefer Yachts to introduce this innovation into the Brazil marketplace,” he added.

Schaefer said that the launch of the 580 with joystick steering at the biggest nautical event in South America stirred significant interest in the marketplace, and the yachtbuilder plans to continue incorporating joystick-only steering in other new motoryacht models moving forward.