

New Academy for ETO Training

Just ETOs, a marine electronics training provider in the UK, opened a new academy in Fort Lauderdale — the first class was held on October 10. While Just ETOs used to operate as a traditional recruitment agency, they now devote their focus to being a unique yacht electronics training facility. Classes were developed to address a huge, growing shortage in electronic skills on yachts — they were also created to provide exceptional training for crew who want to do something about it. “More larger boats and systems are being built and there is less and less skills around to support them,” says Scott Molloy, managing director of Just ETOs.

Although there’s a UK academy, this is the first American one. “Our Fort Lauderdale academy is the next step for our popular superyacht electronics training courses already running in Europe,” Molloy says. “Our business model simply aims to improve training paths for crew in the crucial areas of AV, IT, and satellite communications.”

Just ETOs is seeing a growing shortage of AV, IT, and satellite communications skills in the superyacht sector. “This is partly due to the trend for larger and more technically complex yachts, and also the fast pace of consumer technology change. Our training courses address this and provide new and ideal training paths for both existing and aspiring crew.” Courses include manufacturer certification from companies like Crestron Electronics and Intellian Technologies, helping “improve a crewmember’s abilities and career prospects.”

“We’ve kind of broken a vicious circle where candidates from outside yachting couldn’t get jobs within, as they didn’t have experience of systems that are yacht-specific. But how could they get that experience without that first job?” Molloy points out. “It’s a model we really believe in, and so much so we have now switched from being a recruitment agency to concentrating on our training business.”

A variety of students enroll, and not just crew. “We see a complete mix in our classrooms,” says Molloy. “From those already working in the sector, to those from various other sectors who are working towards their first yacht position. We also see a good mix of mechanical, electrical, and IT engineers. But they all have one thing in common — a requirement for a good base knowledge and common equipment familiarizations.” www.justetos.com — LAURA DUNN

