

# Polymer adds speed, protection

A Tribune Staff Report

TAMPA — A polymer coating developed by Dr. Keith Kent of Tampa has been credited with increasing the speed of the Gentry Eagle powerboat by at least 2 mph during its recent Miami to Nassau record run.

"We've tried similar products without measurable success," Eagle throttleman John Connor said. "This is the first time we've thought we could measure a speed increase."

Known as KISS-COTE, the product was invented by Kent in 1982 as a non-stick dental material to eliminate plaque. Its marine applications were first displayed at this year's Miami Boat Show.

The product, which has the consistency of Vaseline, reduces friction at the surface from both the water and the air. It provides protection for fiberglass, and barnacles won't adhere to a surface coated with it.

KISS-COTE comes in a syringe and is applied with a buffing wheel.

"Eventually, its primary use should be for cleaning and protection," Kent said. "It's exciting to help the Eagle make history."

The Gentry Eagle was scheduled to begin a Miami-to-New York run Friday at 10 p.m., again using KISS-COTE. The 110-foot boat, owned by Honolulu real estate developer Tom Gentry, then will attempt to break the speed record from New York to England.

