



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Monday, December 8, 2003

## **Governor Ehrlich to Sell State Yacht on eBay**

**Sale is expected to save State \$230,000 Annually; Proceeds Go to Maryland's General Fund**

ANNAPOLIS – Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. today announced that the State Yacht, the *Maryland Independence*, will be listed for sale on eBay. Beginning December 11, 2003, eBay members can bid on the Independence, a 112-foot custom motor yacht with a fully equipped galley, entertainment system, and capacity to hold 35 people. Selling the yacht is expected to save the State \$230,000 annually in maintenance fees, and the proceeds will be dedicated to the State's general fund.

“In keeping with my promise, I have directed the Department of General Services to sell the *Maryland Independence* to raise revenue for the State's general fund,” said Governor Ehrlich. “Difficult fiscal times require that we reassess our need for underutilized State property. Listing the yacht on eBay is an innovative and cost-effective way to maximize the Independence's value in the e-marketplace.”

The Maryland Independence was built in 1944 by La Blanc shipbuilding in Weymouth, Nova Scotia. Originally designed to be a submarine chaser, the vessel later served as a patrol boat in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In the early 1980s, it was converted into a motor yacht. The State of Maryland purchased the yacht in 1986 from Capital Boats, Inc. The vessel is powered by Twin Volvo Penta TMD 120 A 265 HP diesel engines.

Originally property of the Department of Natural Resources, the yacht was declared excess State property in October 2003. DGS will initiate the sale of the craft with the assistance of The Advantage Group (TAG). Established and incorporated in the State of Maryland, TAG will lead the logistics and fulfillment of the sale on eBay and retain 10 percent of the final sale. TAG has supported over 15,000 asset sales via eBay in the past two years. The yacht can be found at the following URL address beginning Thursday: <http://www.stores.ebay.com/tagexsurplus>.

Selling the yacht through the Internet is one of many innovative approaches the Ehrlich-Steele Administration is taking to save taxpayer dollars. DGS determined that the insertion and final transaction fees associated with selling the yacht on eBay would cost

the State less than those fees charge by a traditional auction house and would be equivalent to a broker's fees.

“We applaud Governor Ehrlich’s innovative action to sell this historic yacht on eBay to help raise revenue for the State’s general fund,” said Jordan Glazier, general manager, eBay Business. “We are aware of at least 14 other state governments that have used eBay to sell unclaimed and surplus inventory. As in this case, the state governments believe eBay’s global marketplace of nearly 86 million registered users is an advantage to help maximize proceeds.”

###