**RNLI Severn class lifeboat technology**

**Marine Radar**
Sends out radio signal, when the signal hits an object, it gets reflected back to the radar which can then calculate its estimated position in relation to the lifeboat.

**Digital Compass**
This device is used to determine geographic direction using a magnetic needle which pivots until aligned with the earth’s magnetic field. The remote display provides direction and off-course steering information.

**Chart Plotters**
Electronic charts (maps of the sea) are integrated into the lifeboat navigation system using GPS (Global Positioning System) to provide information on the position, heading and speed of the boat.

**VHF Direction Finder**
When lost at sea, other vessels can send out a signal to the lifeboat. The VHF (Very high frequency) direction finder picks up this signal and uses it to locate the boat.

**Video Cameras**
Cameras in the engine room and around the lifeboat allow the coxswain (driver) to keep an eye out for hazards and warnings without having to leave their seat.

**Autopilot**
Autopilot is software integrated into the lifeboat steering system that steers the lifeboat automatically on a pre-determined course.

**Marine VHF Radio**
VHF (Very high frequency) radios are used at sea for communicating with rescue services, harbours and other vessels. They can be hand-held or built into the lifeboat.