

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

31 August 2021

### **Tasmanian boat builder announces New Zealand Defence Contract**

#### **Hobart boat builder, the PFG Group, to build three 12.5 metre boats for the Royal New Zealand Navy**

Hobart based boat builder, PFG, today announced that through an open Tender process, it had secured a contract valued at NZ\$6.4 million with the New Zealand Defence Force to design and construct three 12.5 metre, high-speed Littoral Manoeuvre Craft (LMC). These watercraft will be fully constructed from the next generation boat building material, High Density Polyethylene (HDPE).

The Chief Executive of PFG, Rob Inches said today that the awarding of the contract was recognition of over 20 years' experience the company has had in the building of durable and safe high-performance boats.

"We have been building boats with HDPE for over 20 years, mainly for use in the aquaculture industry. However, with our Sentinel Tactical Watercraft branded boats we have had success more recently in the police and emergency services sectors," Mr Inches said.

"Our boats are renowned for being virtually indestructible, can't corrode or suffer from electrolysis and don't ever require painting resulting in comparably low 'whole of life' costs.

"The boat hulls are 100% recyclable, and of course being built in Tasmania, they are constructed using 100% renewable energy. We are also delighted that we have been able to partner with New Zealand industry with the inclusion of the highly renowned HamiltonJet water jet propulsion units and General Marine Services of Auckland who are both major equipment suppliers and sustainment partners for the programme.

"Due to the design excellence of partner naval architects, One2Three of Sydney, and PFG's craftsmanship in build quality, the boats perform to a very high level, offering strength, reliability, manoeuvrability and crew safety that is unmatched in this class of craft.

"We are also proud that these craft are being built in a region such as Tasmania, a State with a boat building heritage stretching back over 200 years," Mr Inches said.

"The LMC's will provide the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) with an improved ability to detect and respond to underwater threats, support expeditionary reconnaissance and provide an agile platform for the transport of troops and material.

"It is also important that the LMCs are capable of performing multiple roles and tasks and able to operate in a forward command role as required.

"We are proud of our Sentinel craft and proud of the team we have assembled who will deliver them. We are also delighted to work with the RNZN to develop a boat that will set a new benchmark in meeting the needs of a modern defence force," Mr Inches said.

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