

Albany Port orders Hart's ORC15.6 pilot boat

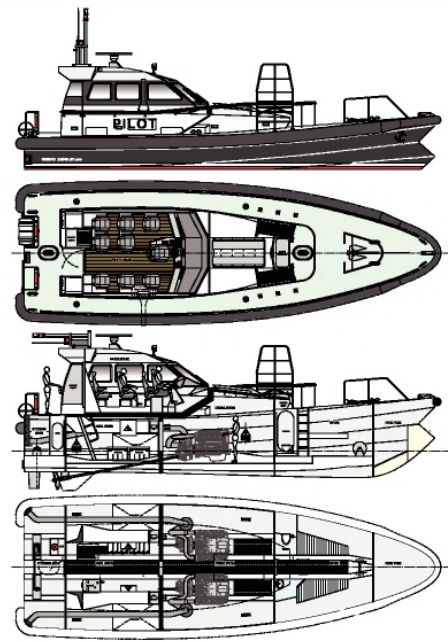
Victoria based boat-builder Hart Marine has recently been chosen to deliver a new pilot boat for Albany Port, Western Australia, to replace the 25-year-old vessel currently in service there.

Hart has a long history of building in advanced composite materials, producing high-performance yachts, motor boats, commercial workboats and, more recently, pilot vessels. Last year the company delivered two of its ORC pilot vessels for operations in Port Phillip, Victoria.

Port Phillip Sea Pilots (PPSP) operate in notoriously rough waters and had previously lost a pilot boat and crew when the vessel overturned in the entrance to the bay. After a global evaluation of pilot vessels, the ORC range – the result of Hart's collaboration with naval architects Pantocarene France – was chosen. According to PPSP, the new pilot vessels have surpassed performance expectations. The ORC range has also been gaining international recognition and success, with vessels new in service in ports and harbours in France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Albany Port Authority CEO Brad Williamson named Hart's ORC15.6 as the optimum design for the port's requirements. Apart from the fundamental role of transferring pilots in all weather, the Albany Port Authority specified a need for high-performance sea-keeping to handle the larger swell conditions encountered around the Southdown mining project 49 nautical miles north-east of Port Albany.

The ORC15.6 satisfied Albany's demand for a self-righting vessel. Other features include oversized rudders for increased manoeuvrability; wide side decks with an Ocean 3 fender system to facilitate pilot transfer; and a suspended wheelhouse that reduces structure-borne noise and vibration and thereby reduces crew fatigue. Improved stability and sea-keeping characteristics are achieved through the vessel's hull form, with a wide



waterline and a wave-piercing beak bow to minimise pitching. Twin turbo-charged diesel engines rated at 450kW drive fixed pitch propellers, enabling a 25-knot operational speed with good fuel efficiency.

The construction time for the boat will be 12 months, with the Port Authority to name the new vessel at a later date.

Over The Top RIB Expedition off and running



Brothers Peter and Phillip Jenkins left the Sydney International Boat Show on August 1 to begin a 5,000 nautical miles coastal journey in a 'rubber ducky' to raise funds and awareness of prostate cancer.

Led by prostate cancer survivor Peter Jenkins, the Honda Over The Top Expedition will see the two brothers sail a

Honda-powered custom 8.6-metre rigid inflatable boat (RIB) all the way around the northern coast of Australia. Peter and Phillip plan to complete their journey in Perth in early October.

After racing through Sydney Harbour and out through the heads on the first day, the brothers made their first stopover in Port Stephens, where local Honda dealer Cove Marine hosted a dinner dance that raised around \$15,000 for the cause.

"It was a magic first day," said Peter. "We experienced excellent sea conditions all the way up the coast, with an average speed of 28 knots and the combined fuel consumption of the twin Honda BF225 outboards was just 29 litres per hour.

Close to 3,000 Australian men die each year from prostate cancer. The Honda Over The Top Expedition aims to raise \$200,000 for Cancer Council Australia for research into effective prostate cancer detection and treatment. Donations can be made online at www.overthetop.com.au.

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