

Stabicraft Marine Limited

Adventure with Confidence

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Stabicraft secures Australian customs contract

Stabicraft Marine boats will be tasked with halting drug traffickers on Australian shores after the Southland company secured a significant federal government contract across the Tasman.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Director of Infringement Operations Greg Corrigan, of Brisbane, said Stabicraft's innovative design and build quality were key factors in awarding the contract.

"This is certainly good evidence that a New Zealand company is out there competing at an international level," he said.

"They build excellent boats – what we're after is a boat that will do the job but it has to be extremely safe and dependable and those are great features of the Stabicraft product.

"The boats will be able to stand up to the hard work and regular use that the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service subject them to."

Stabicraft managing director Paul Adams said while the contract was a coup, the company was simply doing what it did best – building quality boats.

"We're just doing what we do every day and living up to the high standards we set ourselves – and once again that's been recognised on a global scale," he said.

"This will provide a great platform for Stabicraft to further build its international business."

Mr Corrigan, who is visiting the Invercargill factory this week, agreed. "I'm sure securing this contract will further elevate Stabicraft's profile. They already enjoy an excellent reputation in Australia through supplying several coastguard and rescue boats."

Each of the nine 659 Super Cab boats in the first customs order had to meet stringent Australian survey requirements with inspectors travelling to New Zealand during various stages of construction.

"We've passed with flying colours," Mr Adams said.

Stabicraft Australian sales manager Leon Johnston said construction was well-underway on the initial order, which would be completely fitted out in Invercargill before being shipped to Australia.

"It's great for a New Zealand company to secure a contract to build Australian federal boats and this has definitely been a real team effort on both sides of the Tasman," he said.

Mr Corrigan said the boats would be used in a variety of roles, mainly based around rivers and estuaries with limited off-shore work. The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service's fleet included vessels up to 38m in length which could patrol 200 nautical miles offshore.

“The different classes of vessels we operate mean we can stagger their capabilities and ensures we have all the bases covered when it comes to stopping illegal activities and drug importers – the Stabicraft boats are a valuable asset and will provide an important link in our network,” he said.

“Another of their great features is that while they’re heavy duty alloy construction, they are considerably lightweight which, when taking into account the price of fuel, equates to being more economical both when towing or in the water.”

Ends

Photo opportunity: Mr Corrigan will join Mr Adams for an on-water test of a new Stabicraft customs boat at Bluff on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 2.30pm.

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