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Johor-based shipyard aims to expand in region

DESTINATION Marine Services Sdn Bhd, a Johor-based shipyard in Bakar Batu, is looking to expanding its largely domestic market to include the South-East Asian government agencies in Laos, Vietnam, the Philippines and Cambodia.

Its general manager, Encik Ibrahim Ali Abdul Wahab, told reporters in Langkawi yesterday that the Government is promoting exports in order to reduce the current balance of payments deficit.

The company's first model boat for export is the DESTINATION 48. It is expected to be exported towards the end of 1998.

This is a 15m fibreglass fast patrol boat which can reach speeds of up to between 50 and 55 knots.

Ibrahim added that the boat can be used by the marine police, coastal guards and customs departments of the various South-East Asian countries for anti-smuggling and patrolling purposes.

The Destination 48 will also be supplied to Malaysian Government agencies such as the Immigration and customs department, the marine police and the Fisheries Department.

"It is expected to cost between RM1.5 million to 2 million, and can accommodate 25 people," Ibrahim said.

He said that it took a year for the design to be completed, and production is currently under way.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the shipyard and Universiti Technology Malaysia (UTM) in December 1996 for the design of the 15m vessel.

"Another MoU will be signed between the same parties on Thursday at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Lima '97) for the design and development of the 20m fast patrol boat," he said.

The MoU is expected to be witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Destination Marine Sdn Bhd is a full facilitated shipyard which produces high speed interceptor boats, repairs ships and offers a host of other marine related services.

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