

# BOAT AND SHIP BUILDING IN SRI LANKA



**Sri Lanka** the resplendent island in the centre of the Indian Ocean has a long and a proud history of boat building. It has a great advantage to become the hub for boat manufacturing in the Asian region due to its strategic location, highly trainable workforce and the labour cost advantage.

Sri Lanka has one of the best natural harbours in the Asian region and its commercial port in Colombo is rated among the most economical and efficient which offers a complete service to shippers.

With the dawn of peace in Sri Lanka, the boom in the tourism industry is opening up a new frontier of leisure and pleasure crafts. The increased interest of the local community in boating activities has created additional market opportunities. The country's leisure sector records growth where whale watching and other leisure activities contributed by the surge in the tourism industry have a positive impact on the boat building industry.



The Boating Industry has now transformed from traditional boat manufacturing into a high class boat manufacturing industry.

In recent years foreign companies have invested in production of yachts, speed boats as well as kayaks, rowing boats used in water sports for the export market.

The industry comprise of 4 main sectors namely :

- A) Pleasure Boats Sector
- B) Commercial Boats and Ships  
Sector including Ship Repairs
- C) Fishing Boats Sector
- D) Military vessels

The products and services offered belong to a wide range, from boats of different types and related but specialized services.



The different types of boats may fall in to products such as yachts, pleasure and leisure boats, fishing boats, passenger, sports, rescue, coast guard, patrol boats, fast attack crafts and general purpose vessels.

Pre-production services include boat design, lofting, plug making, mould making, and supplying of engine, navigation and communication equipment, refrigeration systems, sail makers, and fire and safety equipment.

Post-production services include boat storage and transport devices, diving and fishing equipment, boat and engine maintenance and repairs.

There is also a well developed ship building and ship repair industry in Sri Lanka.



## Capabilities in Ship Building & Repairs

A) Ship repairs for maximum capacity up to vessels with 125,000 dwt; capable of major repairs, retrofits and conversions - Knowhow, facilities, competencies exist for integrated work, with highly developed network of Suppliers and Service providers. All Class and other Statutory Inspection, Surveys and Testing can be performed in Colombo. (Indirect Exports).

B) Shipbuilding: Capable of design and building both aluminium and steel hull vessels; Specializes on High Speed Patrol Boats (speeds surpassing 50 knots) built to indigenous, battle-proven designs, which had boosted the counter-terrorism capabilities of the Sri Lanka Navy. Such boats are built directly to state entities (Navies and Coast Guards) with the due cognizance of the Defence Authorities in Sri Lanka.

C) Similar technologies are used for commercial vessels, especially in regard to high-speed passenger transportation etc. Specializes on Offshore Energy Sector Support Vessels; i.e. for Offshore Oil & Gas Industry and Offshore Wind Energy related support vessels, another area of focus and success is vessels for Passenger transportation. Work Boats and Harbour Craft is yet another area of competence.



There are around 20 to 25 active boat yards around the country producing various types of boats described above providing employment to around 2000 people directly and around another 10,000 indirectly. Most of the units have an installed capacity to double the annual turnover which means only around 50% of the capacity utilization was recorded during the past two years.

The best known sail makers of the world “ North sails” has their factory operating in Sri Lanka.

Vessels and specialized services are purchased by a wide range of countries including the USA, UK, Norway, Sweden, Holland, France, Iran, UAE, Yemen, Somalia, Gambia, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and Ghana .

Boats exported comprises of fishing vessels, fisheries research vessels, speed, speed cruisers, pleasure crafts, luxury sailing and motor yachts, coast guard vessels, surveillance vessels, patrol crafts, fast attack crafts for army and navy, sea cadet training vessels, rescue crafts, work boats and passenger vessels for inland waterways and sea going.

New additions to the product range are the house boats, floating restaurants and bars, pontoons and paddle boats.

Most of these boat hulls are made out of FRP and other composite material. Larger vessels are built by using aluminum and steel.

Sri Lanka organises its own BOAT SHOW once in every two years with an objective of providing a forum for the boat building industry to display and promote their respective sectors to potential clients.





## SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board is Sri Lanka's apex organisation for the promotion and development of exports. It was established in 1979 under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act No. 40. EDB is the executive arm of the Export Development Council of Ministers, headed by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka, which is the policy-making body of the EDB.

### What We Do

We assist in negotiating business with Sri Lanka, either as an importer or an investor in export production.

Functions of the EDB encompass a range of activities such as promoting exports, organising buyer-seller meets, and exhibitions, providing essential information to both local and foreign entrepreneurs and assisting in the formulation and maintenance of quality standards wherever applicable.

The EDB is manned by a team of professionals, knowledgeable in their own specialized areas, who maintain close personal links with the respective sectors and hence highly competent in providing you helpful advice.

The EDB has on its Board of Management, representatives of both state and private sector organisations involved in export activities. Dedicated to the task of promoting more exports and better exports for the benefit of exporters and importers alike, the full range of its services are provided free of charge.

# SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD



For further information please contact:

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