

Turkish boat builder ARES has exceeded expectations by delivering a record-breaking contract for the Qatari Coast Guard ahead of schedule. In just 12 years, its vessels' higher speeds and increased manoeuvrability have led to an impressive global customer list – with Rolls-Royce as a vital strategic partner

In 2006, when Kerim Kalafatoğlu founded ARES, he breathed new life into his family's long boatbuilding history. While the naysayers advised against it, calling it an exercise in romanticism, Mr Kalafatoğlu was adamant the new shipyard in the Antalya Free Zone on the south coast of Turkey would be a success. He was right.

Twelve years on and ARES is one of the world's fastest-growing shipyards and an industry leader in military and governmental craft. ARES began its new journey with the successful deliveries of pleasure craft, fishing and leisure boats. Over the past 12 years, the yard has expanded exponentially, taking on new personnel and developing new

products, particularly aluminium, steel and composite-hulled vessels, perfecting a unique system of automated vacuum fusion.

"We brought this in to the military craft building industry for the first time with epoxy resin," says Mr Kalafatoğlu. These new composite boatbuilding materials, used in ARES's Hercules series, can help vessels achieve higher speeds and increased manoeuvrability due to the reduction in weight and increase in strength.

ARES, the only shipyard in Turkey with these specialised skills, is expected to be a major player in future composite designs, especially military and governmental craft.

It is certainly building up an impressive customer list having delivered

sophisticated tonnage to naval forces, coast guards, maritime police, port security and customs-enforcement directorates in the likes of Qatar, Bahrain and Nigeria.

Having worked closely with ARES for a number of years, Rolls-Royce has delivered a number of advanced solutions to help satisfy their customers. Mr Kalafatoğlu says: "We have gone from a buyer-seller relationship to a level of strategic partnership. We've worked closely on some important projects and they've brought a lot of support."

To mark 12 years of innovation, ARES handed over the flagship vessel for the Qatari Coast Guard. The ARES 150 Hercules, a 48m Offshore Patrol Vessel, is

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IN ACTION



46
engines and
waterjets being
supplied
to ARES



3
different
sizes of craft
fitted with
Rolls-Royce
solutions

the largest of a fleet of 17 craft being built for the Coast Guard and features our MTU Series 4000 diesel engines and twin 71S4 waterjets.

Rolls-Royce is supplying 46 engines and waterjets for ARES, across three different sizes of craft. The MTU 12V 2000M84 diesel engines and Kamewa 50A3 series waterjets are being supplied for the 24m ARES 75 Hercules and ARES 110 Hercules craft – awarded the World's Best Patrol Boat in 2016.

Mr Kalafatoğlu explains how this vessel "broke records and is the largest contract ever signed for composite fast patrol boats and the Turkish Republic's largest-ever naval export programme".

Commissioned to protect Qatar's vital industries, seven 34m ARES 110 Hercules Fast Patrol Craft and five 24m ARES 75 Hercules Fast Patrol Craft have already been delivered.

During the handing-over ceremony, Qatari Commander Brigadier General Ali Al Badeed Al Mannai told us he was, "very happy with the ships' performance," and is, "looking forward to having the 150 Hercules in Doha to begin exercises with allies' forces".

The ARES 150 Hercules boasts the largest composite hull ever built in Turkey, and at up



to 40 knots, the world's fastest Offshore Patrol Vessel.

While ARES might be coming to the end of this recording-breaking contract an impressive 18 months ahead of schedule, it marks the turning of a corner for the shipyard. ARES was awarded Turkey's fastest-growing company of the year in 2016 and new orders are already being made for the Hercules series. Taking on new manufacturing facilities, expanding its footprint from 15,000 to 25,000m² in the


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next year, the yard will reach its largest capacity in 2018.

Rolls-Royce is proud to be working with ARES on a number of new projects which will see more innovation brought to life.

An energetic company on the cusp of much bigger things. Not many yards can deliver 48m vessels in just 10 months – an achievement Mr Kalafatoğlu puts down to "a talented and experienced workforce". ●

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Turkish delight

"The Qatari contract is the largest contract ever signed for composite fast patrol boats and the Turkish Republic's largest-ever naval export programme"

Kerim Kalafatoğlu

