



Ares is renowned globally for its fast, elegant and very seaworthy inshore and offshore patrol boats. QC 901 is a typical example. Built for a seventeenth-time repeat customer, the government of Qatar, Ares is obviously doing the right thing by a customer that could obviously afford and demand the best in the world. The BMT Nigel Gee-designed boat is equipped with MTU engines and Rolls Royce waterjets. It can sprint to 37 knots.

QC 901, "is the flagship of the 17-vessel program for the Qatari Coast Guard," Ares told *Work Boat World*. "So, we have from the beginning planned and wished to add even more value to this craft, to distinguish it from other offshore patrol vessels currently in service across the globe.

"Therefore, first of all we offered to the client, an upgrade of the main propulsion system (main engines and water jets) to a more improved solution on our account. With this revision, we added a 20 per cent increase in speed, higher maneuverability and then doubled the range (from 800 nm to 1,600 nm) giving the coast guard even more enhanced patrolling capabilities covering all of the Arabic Gulf region with its high speed and extensive range.

"What we have achieved with the vessel is unprecedented; with a maximum speed of 37 nautical miles per hour, the offshore patrol vessel holds the title of the world's fastest OPV in its class. Moreover, it is the largest composite construction for military use in the world."

2018 has been a successful one for Ares, with an order in January from the Qatari Ministry of Interior for 14 fast interceptor boats, and a contract from the Royal Oman Police including 14 patrol and interceptor vessels (PIV) of 26 metres length.

Another order from Qatar's Ministry of Interior for an additional three OPVs and six fast interceptor craft was signed during DIMDEX 2018 in Doha. The company is also finalising a five-year extensive maintenance contract for the coast guard fleet to be executed in Doha, at the new coast guard base.

Finally, in November, Ares won an order for 105 boats to cover the Turkish Coast Guard's coastal security requirements against illegal immigration, human trafficking and smuggling on the surrounding seas and coasts of Turkey. This brand new design is an 11-metre craft

with 35+ knot speed capability and will be delivered within a five-year acquisition program starting in the last quarter of 2019 and finishing by the end of 2023.

Designer BMT Nigel Gee also had a very strong year. "It has been an outstanding year for the business with strong performance in all our markets making it our best year to date," the company told *Work Boat World*.

"It has also included some real landmark projects for us with our largest ever order for 37 fast landing craft for the US Army. With the diversity of our work over several different markets the future certainly looks bright.

"The future patrol boat market certainly looks to be buoyant. We have recently signed a contract for 12 24-metre, 50-knot patrol boats and have other enquiries for these type of high performance craft. In addition to these high-speed patrol boat we are also seeing increased demand for larger offshore vessels in the 60- to 90-metre size range. Clients are looking for improved comfort and habitability for their future vessels so good seakeeping and low noise levels are important and challenging requirements for this fast, high performance craft."

