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Next Generation Tactical Watercraft Unveiled **-Operator-focused The Whiskey Project promises safer, more versatile and fit for purpose watercraft-**

Australian veteran-owned watercraft manufacturer, [The Whiskey Project](#), has today unveiled Whiskey Alpha, the first of its much anticipated next-generation tactical watercraft designed to provide optimal performance and protection for personnel operating in maritime tactical environments.

With a focus firmly on the operator, The Whiskey Project boats are the product of collaboration between experienced military operators and world-class maritime engineers, architects and innovators. Merging cutting edge design technologies, advanced safety features and a modular design configuration, the Whiskey Project offers the safest, most versatile and fit for purpose tactical watercraft seen in decades.

Federal Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Melissa Price MP was honoured to officially launch The Whiskey Project at the Pacific International Maritime Expo 2019 today, where military, industry, government and technology delegates from around the globe gathered at Sydney's International Convention Centre.

"Today's launch of The Whiskey Project is a great day for small businesses in the Australian defence industry," said Minister Price.

"Our \$200 billion investment in the record build-up of our sovereign capability has opened the door to so many companies looking to get involved in Australia's defence industry."

The Whiskey Project boats offer operational advantage in tactical maritime situations through new technology, safety, and performance enhancements.

"Maritime tactical operators are highly trained personnel who work in extreme environments. Our mission is to ensure the watercraft they rely on is optimally suited to meet the requirements of contemporary maritime missions, whilst minimising the risks to personnel and equipment," said Darren Schuback, ex Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diver and Managing Director of The Whiskey Project.

"You can't control every element of a tactical situation, but we can significantly improve our key watercraft assets to ensure operators arrive on task in optimum physical condition. Our advanced tactical boats integrate world-leading technologies that provide operational advantages and improve human performance, reducing the risk of injury and fatigue for our maritime personnel whilst increasing their safety and comfort," added Schuback.

The launch of The Whiskey Project follows the Morrison government's announcement of a \$500m funding boost to Australia's special forces. Dubbed Project GREYFIN, the funding will see a total of \$3bn planned investment over 20 years in advanced equipment to enhance the capabilities of Australia's special forces.

The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP, NSW Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, believes the coalition's focus on defence spending presents significant opportunities for NSW.

"With the Commonwealth spending \$3 billion re-equipping Australia's special forces over the next 20 years, it's great to see a NSW company like The Whiskey Project developing smart, innovative technology for our highly trained professional soldiers who risk their lives in tactical maritime environments," said Minister Ayres.

"It's vital our special forces have access to cutting edge technology like the Next Generation Tactical Watercraft. The NSW Government will always get behind small companies that seek to deliver smart, specialised equipment to meet that need.

"Defence NSW assists NSW SMEs to access federal and state government programs to participate in trade events like Pacific, and target global supply chain and capability development initiatives," added Minister Ayres.

NSW-based The Whiskey Project is well positioned to support Australia's Defence Industrial Capability Plan and continuous shipbuilding program, driving the Federal Government's long term vision to build and develop domestic solutions for the major surface combatants and minor war vessels across the Australian fleet.

From the hull up, The Whiskey Project's launch boat – Whiskey Alpha - features fit-for-purpose design elements which have been conceptualised during the founders' time as Special Operations Clearance Divers.

Advanced safety features ensure smoother ride for operators

Whiskey Alpha features a new world-leading hull design that provides greater stability than the traditional Deep V hull, reducing the slamming load impact on personnel and equipment by 40% compared to legacy hulls. Slamming load impact has long been recognised as a source of chronic injuries and reduced the efficacy of personnel onboard. 95% of Special Boat operators from the US Navy's Special Boat Units [reported](#) having incurred at least one injury on the job, with this figure increasing to a 100% injury rate of crewmen by their tenth year of service.

This new hull design better protects the safety of the operators and enhances their physical condition when they arrive at task.

Greater versatility enables a fit-for-purpose asset

Another key feature of the Whiskey Alpha watercraft is its modular design configuration, ensuring the layout is fit for any purpose and is user configurable across all mission sets.

Seats can be quickly installed, shifted or removed depending on the scenario the team is responding to, ensuring maximum versatility and optimising the larger deckspace. Whilst the plug'n'play technology platform, from weapons and combat to autonomous systems creates an interoperable versatility that is future-fleet fit.

"Ultimately, if you have the option to reconfigure your boat to meet unique operational situations, you take that option as an immediate competitive advantage." Schuback said.

The new, Australian made tactical watercraft represents a major leap forward in terms of innovation. Schuback believes by focusing on the operator the new watercraft will not only reduce the number of incidents and accidents, but also improve the effectiveness of Australian maritime operations.

"We have used our experience on the water to bring to life safety innovations, whilst looking at ways we can improve operational outcomes by increasing the versatility of these boats. Taking an operator-first approach to the design of Whiskey Alpha, we believe it will significantly improve the performance of personnel on the water and provide a real advantage in tactical situations, whilst supporting Australia's sovereign capability with a new global benchmark for tactical watercraft." Schuback said.

The Whiskey Project will officially unveil its first Australian designed and made watercraft at [Pacific 2019](#), where it has also been nominated as a finalist for the Pacific 2019 Innovation Awards.

For more information, visit www.thewhiskeyproject.com.au

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Media Kit

Images and video content can be found [here](#).

Interviews

For further information or to request an interview to discuss Whiskey Alpha, please contact:

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