

# 'Kirby Naiad Fast Rescue Boats'

**Three new self-righting RIBs from Kirby Marine for north-west oil and gas fields**

**By MIKE BROWN**



The smallest vessel in Kirby Marine's range of Naiad RIBs to be built to survey is the 4.8-metre boat.

It is also one of the most popular. The Fisheries Department has one at the Abrolhos Islands, where it has the advantage of being stowable, once deflated, in a container over the off season. Several are in use as ship's auxiliaries, and others are used in an inshore role by Western Australian Government departments.

The latest task for the RIB is as a fast rescue boat; Kirby has built three for the north-west oil and gas fields. 'Bhagwan K', 'Enrybo Kaye' and 'Stenella' will have them mounted on deck in special cradles with lashing jigs supplied by Kirby. The mother vessels are used for crew transfers and light cargo work, and the cradles can be lifted and secured in various places on the vessels to suit the placement of cargo.

The legislative requirements for the fast rescue craft were that they had to be certified by an appropriate statutory authority. Charterers Woodside and Apache preferred that they be SOLAS-approved, but Lou Kannikoski, principal of Bhagwan Marine, pointed out the costs involved, and the fact that Kirby's design had already exceeded USL requirements.

Features beyond USL include self-righting ability (using an approved system) and propeller guards, also probably the most significant SOLAS requirements. The

charterers have also accepted the design to 2C, Ship's Auxiliary.

The vessel's layout is centre console with saddle seats, with the considerable beam allowing room on either side of the console for a person to be laid down. A VHF radio is fitted in the console, but otherwise equipment is as Spartan as the craft's role requires.

The structure naturally incorporates lifting lugs. Other features of the hull that are similar to the larger Naiads include built-in battery compartments under the seat, an anchor and cable locker, and heavy-duty mooring bitts.

The inflatable collar, with four buoyancy compartments, uses extra-heavy duty material and is further protected by a wear band. Its buoyancy is complemented by foam-filled voids in the hull.

Power is supplied by a pair of 30kW four-stroke Yamaha outboards, controlled by hydraulic steering gear.

On trials, sea keeping at speed was excellent at part load, the normal operating condition. The boats may be used in casual roles other than rescue, and the trials included full load operations. At reduced speeds, the vessels proved their load carrying abilities in a considerable sea.

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## 'Kirby Naiad Fast Rescue Boats'

### SPECIFICATIONS

Type of vessel:	Fast rescue craft RIB
In survey to:	2C USL
Home port:	Geraldton, Western Australia
Owner/operator:	Bhagwan Marine, Western Australia
Designer:	Naid Designs, New Zealand
Builder:	Kirby Marine, Western Australia
Hull construction material:	Aluminium
Superstructure construction material:	Aluminium
Deck construction material:	Aluminium
Length overall:	4.8 metres
Length waterline:	3.5 metres
Beam:	2.35 metres
Draught:	0.2 metres
Main engine:	Yamaha outboard F40, 30kW
Maximum speed:	20 knots
Cruising speed:	15 knots
Radio:	VHF QME
Paint/ coating:	International
Fuel capacity:	40 litres
Crew:	2
Other characteristics:	Self-righting