

Bahrain Navy awards contract to UAE shipbuilder

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Abu Dhabi Ship Building (ADSB) has been awarded a contract to build four landing craft for the Bahrain Naval Forces in a multi-million dollar deal, the company said on Tuesday.

It is the second Bahraini order for ADSB, the only dedicated naval shipbuilding and repair facility in the Gulf.

The new contract, awarded by Bahrain Defence Force, is for the construction of two 42-metre steel landing craft and two 16-metre landing craft. The work will be undertaken at ADSB's Mussafah shipyard.

The steel vessels are designed for troops and vehicle or cargo transportation and for beach landings in Gulf coastal waters.

The 16-metre craft, the Sea Keeper 715, will be built in ADSB's state-of-the-art composite workshop and, with a capability of traveling at 35+ knots, are designed for the rapid deployment of personnel and supplies.

"This new contract is a major step forward in our development as the recognised supplier and service provider for the GCC maritime military markets," ADSB CEO William Saltzer said in a statement.

"Winning the contract against stiff international competition is recognition of the world-class facilities and capabilities that we have established at ADSB."

A spokesman for the Bahrain Naval Forces added: "The order for these vessels was placed after careful evaluation of the bids we received from various shipyards.

Abu Dhabi Ship Building has demonstrated that it can build military vessels to world class standards and we look forward to working with them on this project."

Work is also currently underway at ADSB's Mussafah shipyard on the refit and upgrade of 10 Bahrain Coastguard patrol boats in a contract that was awarded last year.

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