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First fibreglass vessel

A 36ft. lobster boat made by a new factory in Orkney is the first specially-designed fibreglass fishing boat to be produced in Britain. The boat has been built by Halmatic (Scotland) Ltd., whose workshop is a former hangar at the war-time naval air station at Hatston, near Kirkwall.

Only the basic hull and deck houses are moulded by the factory, which now has a workforce of 16. These are then fitted out by traditional craftsmen in other yards.

Three yards in Orkney will be helping in this. The factory's first hull has been transported 12 miles by road to the boat-building firm of Duncan's on the island of Burray, where it is expected to take to the water some time next month.

By the time of the launch the Hatston factory will have turned out two further moulds and a few weeks later these will be followed by the first of their bigger boats, a 54-footer.

The new boat will fish in Orkney waters, and will be owned by William Rendall, of Holm. The first 54-footer has already been sold to an American owner.