Firm to make boat hulls in Kirkwall

By a Staff Reporter

Manufacturing of glass reinforced plastic hulls for fishing and commercial vessels is to be set up at Kirk-wall, Orkney, at a cost of between £20,000 and £25,000 by Halmatic (Scotland), Ltd.

The company are a newly-formed subsidiary of Halmatic, Ltd., of Havant, Hampshire, one of the Hunting Group, and will have substantial backing from the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

The development was announced yesterday in Glasgow by Mr Clive Hunting, chairman of Halmatic, Ltd.

MULTI-PURPOSE

The initial work force of 12 leave Orkney this month for a three-month training course in England.

By 1974 it is expected that about 50 people will be employed and production will be between 30 and 40 boats a year.

The first boats are due for completion next June or July.

They will be multi-purpose 25-ton vessels, 50ft. long, with an 18-ft beam, powered by a 200h.p. engine capable of a speed of nine-and-a-half knots; and 36ft. general purpose lobster boats which could be powered by a 72h.p. engine capable of a speed of nine knots.

The vessels will be finished off at Scottish and English shipyards. They will be built to order and the hulls can be adapted for many uses, including luxury yachts.

Negotiations are already under way for the adaption of the hulls for yachts to be fitted out by one Scottish company. Other negotiations area well in hand to expor tcompleted boats to South America and Scandinavian countries.

The completed boats will cost between £34,000 and £35,000 but the manufacturers claim that the maintenance will cost 70% less than for traditional wooden or steel craft which cost about the same to buy.

The Halmatic development comes after more than 18 months of negotiations and talks with the White Fish Authority, the Highlands and Islnads Development Board, Orkney County Development Department, and fishermen.

Three trial fishing vessels with glass reinforced plastic hulls have been in operation off Aberdeen for some time.

The development was described by Sir Andrew Gilchrist, chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, as being a "very valuable enterprise because in sixe and quality it represents the kind of thing which the board feel is right for small communities."

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Halmatic in the Orkneys

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Halmatic Ltd, of Havant, is planning to set up a factory at Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands. A new company, Halmatic (Scotland) Ltd is to be set up with plans to operate a factory at Hatston, where the company will manufacture glass reinforced plastics fishing and commercial vessels and ancillary products.

Extract from the

Sunday Mail

GLASGOW

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COMING SOON —THE PLASTIC FISHING BOAT

456

A SHIPYARD for making "plastic" fishing boats is to be started in the Orkneys.

The yard will build boats of up to 80 feet long from "glass-reinforced plastic," and work is to begin at Kirkwall in the New Year.

The makers, Halmatic Limited, from Havant in Hampshire, want to recruit about a dozen men in the Orkneys, and train them in England.

The firm hope to have 50 of a staff by 1974.

At first, they're to build a 25-ton multi-purpose fishing boat and a 36-footer designed for lobster fishing. Eventually they plan larger trawlers in the 70-80 foot range.

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MEN SELECTED FOR BOATBUILDING JOBS

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There have been 70 applications by Orkney men for 12 vacancies advertised by Halmatic (Scotland) Ltd., the firm who are to build glass-fibre fishing boats at Kirkwall.

Eleven who have been selected will undergo a three-month course at the parent factory at Havant, Hampshire.