

25 September 2024

## **THE WHISKEY PROJECT GROUP ACQUISITION OF KJL SAILS TO BOOST PRODUCTION AND INNOVATION**

**Sydney, Australia:** Veteran-founded, specialist and tactical watercraft manufacturer The Whiskey Project Group (TWPG) has acquired New Zealand based KJL Sails to expand the company's presence in the Pacific and strengthen its supply chain of highly specialised maritime technology manufacturing.

With this investment, TWPG continues to expand its state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, technologies and its highly skilled workforce seeing expansion of its Trans-Tasman end-to-end maritime design, engineering, manufacturing and sustainment facilities.

KJL is renowned for its production of sails and foam collars, with Naiad being one of their key customers over the years to support the delivery of world class patrol, commercial and recreational vessels.

Combining KJL's collar making expertise with Naiad's design expertise will enable more of the manufacturing and design elements to be co-located, this will enhance efficiency, collaboration and deliver continued design excellence and innovation.

Naiad vessels are the renowned 'four-wheel drive of the sea' and is the first choice of Australian and New Zealand law enforcement, border agencies, coastguard and emergency services.

The acquisition of KJL Sails follows the previous two strategic acquisitions by TWPG in 2020 which has continued to secure a sovereign supply chain and assure key naval design intellectual property while enhancing Australia and New Zealand's regional boat manufacturing expertise and employment.

Darren Schuback, Chief Executive Officer of TWPG said: "The investment in KJL Sails is another example of TWPG securing its supply chain in the Australasian region and is testament to TWPG's commitment to innovation, manufacturing and most importantly, our customer base."

**- ENDS -**

For further information please contact:

**Sarah Cullens:** +61 411 166 305 or [sarah@precisionpublicaffairs.com.au](mailto:sarah@precisionpublicaffairs.com.au)

### **Notes for editors:**

#### **ABOUT THE WHISKEY PROJECT GROUP**

*TWPG combines Australian maritime special operations experience and decades of New Zealand design excellence, with domestic and global supply chains of highly-specialised marine and military technology manufacturers.*

TWPG watercraft are purpose-built to perform in the most challenging conditions, drawing on the veteran founders' special operations experience in contemporary maritime and littoral warfare.

Named after the military callsign for specialist water operators, The Whiskey Project Group was founded by former Australian Navy Clearance Divers (Frogmen) who set out to create the watercraft they wished they'd had.

TWPG comprises several proven trans-Tasman maritime technology and naval architecture companies delivering end-to-end design, engineering, manufacturing, maintenance and sustainment of high-performance military and emergency services watercraft.

#### **AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW**



#### **Darren Schuback**

Co-founder & CEO, The Whiskey Project Group

*Darren is a former military officer (mustang) with over 24 years of operational and leadership experience in the Royal Australian Navy and ADF Special Operations. He has a distinguished record in leading, mentoring and guiding staff at all levels within his organisation, through change management projects, cultural improvement and creating efficiencies in capability output.*

*He is an entrepreneur that is professionally renowned for 'making it happen', converting plans and strategies into successful outcomes. This unwavering focus is concentrated on The Whiskey Project Group (TWPG) to create the next generation of watercraft for performance, safety and capability.*

*Since the inception of TWPG he has successfully led his high performing team through multiple capital raises and acquisitions resulting in TWPG being strategically postured for continuous growth and international expansion in the North and South American markets.*



*Josee Derden, Collar Manufacturing Manager, providing quality assurance of the seam on a lower portion of a Naiad collar before continuing fabrication at KJL Sails, Picton New Zealand.*



*Bill Richards, Textile Fabricator, sewing a repair for a yacht Bimini at KJL Sails, Picton New Zealand.*



*L-R: KJL Sail and Naiad team members Paul Nouvellon, Design Manager, Simon Houghton, Principal Naval Architect, Mike Clark, Naiad Collar Finishing Technician, Josee Derden, KJL Collar Manufacturing Manager, Ian Barclay, Naiad Collar Product and Production Manager, Bill Richards, KJL Textile Fabricator, Andrew Hogg, General Manager Naiad outside the manufacturing facilities of KJL Sails in Picton, New Zealand.*

**THE WHISKEY PROJECT GROUP**

ABN 17 632 106 837

[www.thewhiskeyprojectgroup.com](http://www.thewhiskeyprojectgroup.com)

