

IBI - International Boat Industry -

<http://www.ibinews.com/ibinews/index.html>

IBI is the leading business-to-business magazine and website covering the global marine recreational trade

FEATURE



The first of the Bluewater Yachts, Midnight Lace 52s has been started and will be delivered to its Dubai owner late next year.



Bluewater's Managing Director Jack Chen, who has owned the yard for the past 26 years, says that he also is getting the pressure from customers to go bigger. The company has built over 800 boats and while most have gone to the US and European markets, Chen says that locally Hong Kong and other areas in Asia are developing as new regions for the company's boats.

"We would like to go bigger, say over 130ft, but I feel we would need to look at changing to steel or aluminium construction and for this we would probably use a local shipyard to build the hull and we would bring it back to the factory for fitout", said Chen.

He was adamant that an advantage Taiwan yards have is that they are now able to offer yachts of the highest international standards and quality but at a more competitive price. "China may be cheaper, but they don't offer the same quality as the yards in Taiwan".
E-mail bybyacht@ms69.hinet.net

Tachou

Tachou is a third-generation company that started building fishing boats in 1939 and can lay claim to being one of the oldest boatbuilders in Taiwan. The yard is in fact one of three facilities side by side, each owned by a separate member of the same family.

With a background in commercial work, Tachou has found it easy to bring those skills to work in the yacht building industry. Many of the earlier builds were sold throughout the world under other names. The sailing yacht, CT 65 for example was known as the Stardust 65 in France, Scorpio 72 in Europe and CT65 in the US. Over 400 of this very popular charter yacht

were sold, until production ceased about six years ago.

Since then the work has mostly been motoryachts, with a stock range from 50ft to 80ft. However, Tachou also produces a catamaran sailing boat. The yard has the capability to build to 115ft. Production is only 3-4 boats a year and currently the yard has the second Olympia 76 under construction that is destined for an Australian client. Retail price is around \$US2.5 million, fully loaded, with the open Muira 68 at \$US1.5 million. Powered by twin C18 Caterpillars, the first Olympia 76 into Australia will have a top speed in excess of 25 knots. The boat will be launched later this year and will probably be on show at the 2006 Sanctuary Cove boat show.

Meihua Chen says "We also have a lot of interest in our open sports Miura 68, from both Australian and US clients and we hope to start the first one soon".

Chen says that the Australian market is very strong and the company is keen to promote its brands. Apart from the US, the company also has a very good reputation in Japan.

Although the company started as builders of sailboats, the interest and sales are certainly more in the motoryacht market, although all the old moulds are still available for the 41ft, 54ft and 65ft CT yachts.

"The company is focusing on the Olympia and Muira range which are now in production, and we are looking also at a 78 for a Japanese client for charter, plus a 100 footer", said Chen. Six years ago it produced its first superyacht, the

CT112 for a Japanese client and was one of the first yards in Taiwan to use the SCRIMP lamination boat building method. Currently

Japanese designer Uchiyama Design worked in collaboration with Tachou to design and build the Olympia 75. The first example was launched earlier this year for a Japanese client and while modelled on similar lines to a Sunseeker is really quite different. Powered by

twin 1500 MTUs, she achieved 40 knots and is being used in Japan for corporate entertaining.

With a heritage of building both customs and smuggling boats, the company has the experience in building light, strong high speed boats, which are capable of handling the high speeds and power of the Olympia and Muira series.

www.tachouship.com

CruiseLine

Cruiseline is another Taiwan boat building company with a long heritage, with 20 years' experience building sportfishers for Bluewater Yachts. However, today it produces its own brand of sportfishers under the Jannace brand. The first model launched was the Jannace 430 Sportfisher and this will soon be followed by the 480C and then next year 55ft and 65ft models will be added to the fast growing line up.

Japanese Designer Uchiyama Design worked in collaboration with Tachou to design and build the Olympia 75



www.pacificmotoryacht.co.nz