

1st export order: Navalt to supply solar electric boats to Maldives

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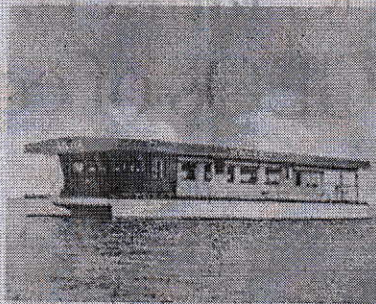
Kochi-based Navalt Solar and Electric Boats has received its first export order worth \$650,000 (nearly ₹5 crore) from the Maldives.

Maldives will use the 20-metre-long and 7-metre-wide ferry for inter-island passenger transport. The ferry has a 75-seat capacity.

The boat's 40 kW motor will be powered by a 40kWh (LFP or LTO) battery, which can be charged either with grid power and partly via a 20kW roof solar panel. Navalt has been selling boats since 2009, and Aditya ferries for six years.

In a chat with *businessline*, Navalt's Founder-CEO Sandith Thandasherry said the company's Aditya boats have so far ferried 2 million passengers and saved 2,00,000 litres of diesel.

All of the company's 20-odd boats, which include ferries,



cruises, fishing boats, luxury vessels and even a Roll-on, Roll-off (RO-RO), are powered by batteries that can be partly charged by solar power.

80-CR ORDER BOOK

Thandasherry said the company has orders for 35 boats that are worth \$10 million (₹80 crore). He was in Chennai to take part in Climafix Summit 2022, a conference organised by the Chennai-based consultancy Energy Alternatives India (EAI) and IIT-Madras Research Park.

Among the boats that are currently being built are two RO-RO boats into which you can drive your car or a truck,

and drive out upon reaching your destination. These boats, named Kraken, are 80-tonne, 45-m vessels that can accommodate 40 cars or four 40-ft trailers. Each costs ₹10 crore and are being built for the government of Kerala. They come with a 40kW rooftop solar panel and the batteries have a range of 40 km. On carbon credits for its customers, Thandasherry said Navalt has hired a consultant to explore this option.

In response to a question, Thandasherry said the company has received 'zero support' while the State governments are at least buying some boats.

He said that a few years back, Amitabh Kant, the then CEO of NITI Aayog, had assured him that solar boats would be included in the FAME-II—an incentive scheme for production of electric vehicles. However, nothing has happened so far, he added.