

First Look



ASTENDERS

Finally a company has given the humble yacht tender the attention it deserves, considering the vital role it plays in safely ferrying people ashore or from boat to boat, with Germany's ASTenders offering a range of carbonfibre models.

Carbon Yachts has taken on the exclusive distributorship for Australia and NZ and will display several tenders at Sydney International Boat Show in August.

The range begins with the Beach 280, an open dinghy that weighs just 30kg. At

the upper end, the 340 Revolve and 400 Coast models made their world premieres at the recent Boot Düsseldorf exhibition.

The 340 Revolve has a ground-breaking Mitek electric engine system with a leg that rotates laterally to save storage space. It's capable of reaching 25 knots (46.3km/h) and is said to offer a maximum

range of 120nm (222km) when running at three knots.

Those who prefer side-console or jockey seat steering will be well served by the Coast range. The new 400 has a beam of 1.82m to afford high stability, weighs 85kg and runs outboards up to 30hp.

Employing carbonfibre with epoxy infusion and foam sandwich for hull construction not only saves weight but allows unparalleled stiffness.

ASTenders says that power demands are 35 per cent lower than a RIB, thanks to the optimised deep-vee hull.

A high freeboard keeps spray and chop at bay.

ASTenders says the hulls are unsinkable due to the foam, and there will be no issues with deflation or material degradation from UV exposure. Equally, the tender doesn't sacrifice internal space to large tubes.

Chris Hrones, co-founder of Carbon Yachts, is confident the ASTenders will fill a significant gap in the Australian dinghy market: "These tenders are not only about luxury but about lasting value, with AST's models capable of outlasting traditional inflatables by decades," he said.

More information: Carbon Yachts, tel: (02) 9979 6612. Web: carbonyachts.com.au.

