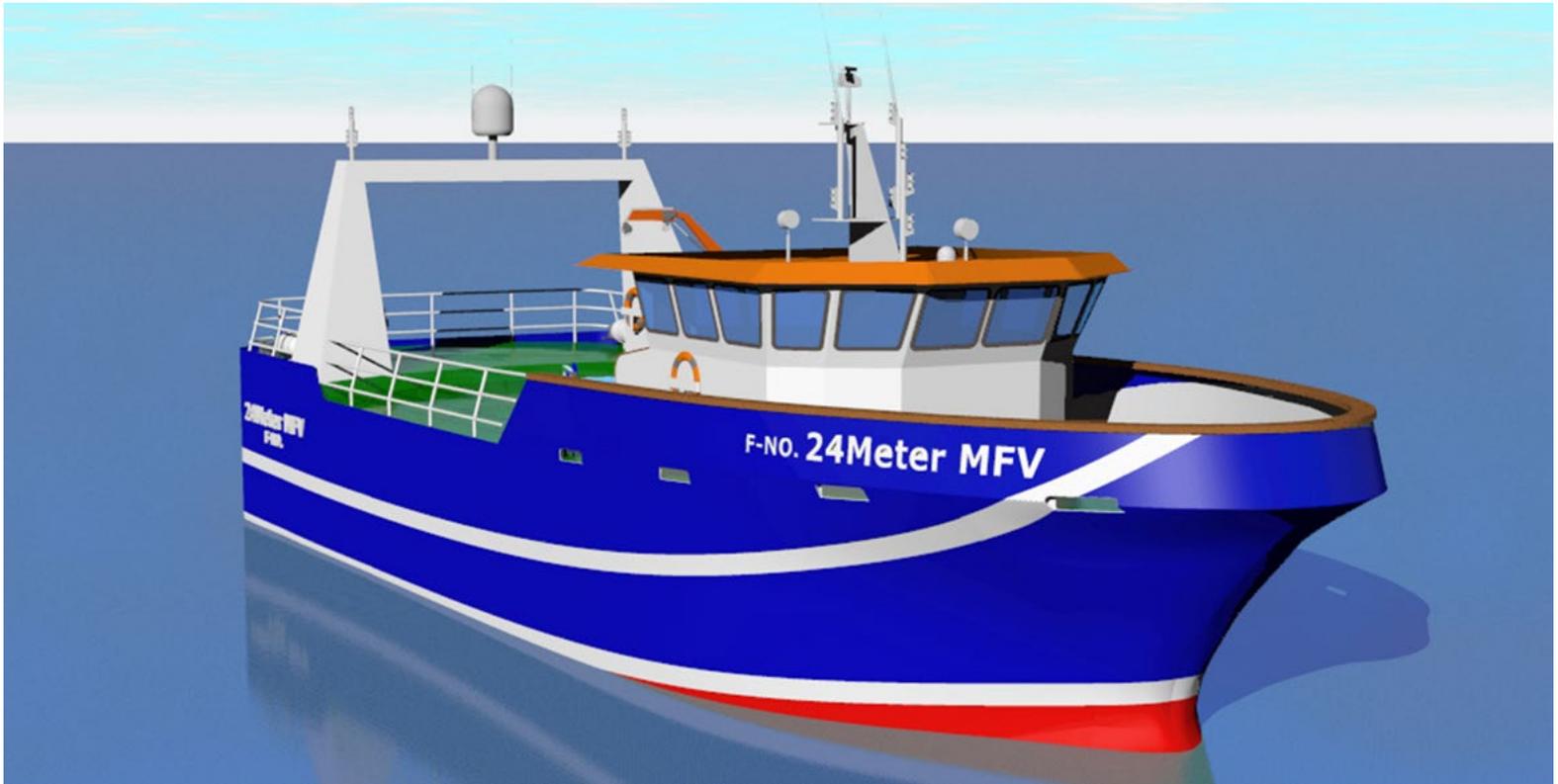


Prolines Launch Irish Designed Fishing Vessel Range



A major advance in design technology is set to make a big impact in the Irish fishing and boat building industry. Prolines Naval Architects and Marine Surveyors have expanded their capabilities in precision engineering, including 3D ship design, allowing for vessel owners to design and build new boats within Ireland, without having to look abroad for new vessel design.

Fishing vessels make up about 70% of Prolines' customer base, with an emphasis on pre-purchase surveys, lines-plan production, inclining experiments, modifications and flagging solutions which often sees the company owners Rob and Brian McConnell travel throughout Europe and beyond, to work with boatyards that stretch as far as Turkey and

Israel. "It is important that we try and keep the projects in Ireland" explains naval architect Rob McConnell, "it will greatly improve production time for the client, keep costs down and prove that Ireland is up there with the best countries in the industry".

Prolines was established in 2002 by Rob McConnell after he completed a degree in naval architecture from the Southampton Institute and worked in France for a number of years as a naval architect in Superyacht design. On his return home to Dunmore East in Waterford, he shifted focus to trawlers and fishing vessels. Rob's brother Brian also qualified as a naval architect and became a partner in Prolines in 2015. The company has grown year on year and remains

one of Ireland's leading firms in naval architecture. In the merchant fishing sector, clients have included Bill Price of Rockabill Shellfish, the N.I.F.O and over 250 other vessels between 15 – 20 metres. Other clients have included; the Irish Navy and a million euro refit for commercial giants CRH.

This is not just a major financial investment for the company, but for the entire sector, as Prolines' partnerships with Ireland's largest boat building manufacturers can ensure that projects will be reliably overseen from the initial design stage, right through to finished vessel flagging compliance. The high quality engineering software allows for a higher degree of prefabrication and pre-outfitting of

blocks, thereby reducing building time and in turn, reducing costs for the client. "Vessel structures can be modelled easily and the accuracy of the drawings are second to none" said naval architect Brian McConnell. "We are thrilled to be the first in Ireland with this software". Based in Co. Waterford, the McConnell brothers are determined to grow with the needs of the Irish fishing industry, which has seen it's own share of difficulties in recent decades. "It is important that the fishing community holds strong in Ireland and that we do not succumb to larger European economies" asserts Rob. "It is a part of our heritage, our culture and our future, so it has never been more important to promote and support Ireland's fishing community".

