

LAUNCHES



Silent Yachts Reports Ten Solar-Powered Catamarans Under Construction

SILENT 60

From top: The Silent 60; Interior views of the Silent 60; a rear view of the Silent 60, the first of which will be launched in January 2021



Austrian yacht brand Silent Yachts is reporting a banner year, with ten solar-powered catamarans currently under production in its facilities in Thailand and Italy. The yard announced on November 4 that it expected to deliver 15 of its solar powered yachts in 2021, with 11 yachts in the water now. A total of 31 Silent Yachts have been sold so far.

In an interview with *Asia-Pacific Boating* in May this year, Silent Yachts' Founder and CEO Michael Kohler said that nine yachts were in production, including four of the new 60-foot model and six 80-footers. As of November, the yard reported that one Silent 55, five of the new Silent 60s and four Silent 80s were under construction. One Silent 80, the largest of Silent range, is due for launch in 2020.

In May, Kohler told *Asia-Pacific Boating* that the yard continued to sell, despite Covid-19, and that much of his customer base was from the tech industry or the new economy.

The first Silent 60, which will be delivered in January 2021, will feature a kite-sail. This type of wind-assist technology has been around for years and has regained popularity, with shipping companies exploring its merits. On the Silent 60, the kite will be mounted on the front deck, and the entire system can be stored in a dedicated compartment below the front deck when not in use.

Since it was introduced at the Cannes Yachting Festival in 2019, Silent Yachts reports the sale of 12 units. Production takes place at the PMG Shipyard in Thailand, which has recently expanded to meet the demand of Silent Yachts production. Another series of Silent 60s is under construction in Fano, Italy.

The Silent 60 uses silent electric propulsion for unlimited range and minimal vibration. The yacht is equipped with 42 solar panels resulting in 17kWp solar energy production.

Amadeo Migali, managing director of MICAD, which does the naval architecture for Silent Yachts, told *Asia-Pacific Boating* in May that catamarans were the obvious choice for buyers wanting an all-solar powered yacht. The main challenge was in battery power, which still offers far lower power potential versus the same weight in conventional fuel.

However, Migali also pointed to future technology development in making solar powered catamarans even more competitive. "Even today, according to actual solar power production, it is possible to offer competitive speed and range, keeping under control the problem of the loop speed-range-power-weight."