6 Waterjet Powered Patrol Boats for Egyptian Border Guard

Operators and builders of modern high-speed patrol boats are preferring waterjet propulsion for the many performance and maintenance benefits they offer. Twin HamiltonJet HM651 waterjets were chosen for a fleet of Egyptian patrol boats, providing high performance over the range of coast guard type activities the vessels are involved in, such as security operations, law enforcement, customs surveillance, and search and rescue missions.

Built by Swiftships USA the 26m aluminium vessels are manned by a crew of 12 and carry over 7,500 litres of fuel – giving them endurance for up to 5 days at sea. A high-speed launching well at the stern enables a RIB tender to be deployed to assist with the boarding of suspect vessels, during rescue situations and in areas of very shallow water.

The twin HM651 waterjets are controlled with HamiltonJet’s MECS electronic control system, with stations at both the forward pilothouse and an open bridge located aft on the upper deck. With these waterjets and 2250hp Caterpillar engines, the vessels are capable of 40 knots, together with fast acceleration, tight turning radius and emergency stops from high speed (pictured at right).

The ZF reduction gear reduces RPM to the waterjets and allows for a coarse-pitched impeller to be fitted. This significantly reduces the risk of cavitation, giving the vessel improved acceleration and bollard pull capabilities.