

Mermaid Marine In Merger Talks

Fremantle based Mermaid Marine Australia has announced that it is in discussions with an unlisted third party regarding a possible merger and hopes to issue a more detailed announcement on the outcome of negotiations before Christmas.

In a statement to the ASX dated 11 December, Company Secretary, Peter Raynor, said discussions were incomplete and no binding agreement had been entered into. He said any merger would be subject to a number of conditions, including the approval of Mermaid Marine shareholders at a general meeting.

"The discussions currently contemplate that Mermaid Marine will issue new shares to the third party in exchange for the third party's business", the statement said. The third party would become the majority shareholder of Mermaid Marine and have board representation.

"The Mermaid Marine board considers that a suitable merger proposal could have significant attractions for Mermaid Marine shareholders and is reviewing the opportunity carefully." ■