

VEEM milestone

◀ FROM P97

risky strategy, chasing difficult, technical work with better profit margins in sectors with high barriers to entry.

Ground-breaking technology developed by VEEM sees it using robotics to turn out custom-made propellers up to 4.8m in diameter that can be adjusted after they're fixed to a boat, saving shipmakers time and money by doing away with the need to lift the boat from the water to change or modify the prop.

Similarly, its gyrostabilisers, which minimise a ship's roll, fill a gap in the market for boats that use less-efficient stabiliser fins.

Up to until a few years ago, when they started taking dividends, the brothers grew VEEM by reinvesting its profits.

"We didn't want to die being the richest person in the cemetery," says Mark, the company's managing director.

"You have to balance life and enjoy some of that hard work. We'd only started down that journey when Gary died."