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Cell Aquaculture exports fish to Europe

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Barramundi farmer Cell Aquaculture has shipped its first batch of baby fish to its new operations in the Netherlands as part of the company's plans to expand internationally.

Cell Aquaculture on Tuesday said it successfully shipped the barramundi fingerlings from its Australian hatchery to its joint venture production plant in Tolbert, in the Netherlands.

The West Australian-based firm said the baby barramundi arrived with a "nil mortality rate" on February 3 under its "hatch to dispatch" program.

"This ... provides yet another solid foundation block towards delivering our goal to internationally expand our unique 'hatch to dispatch' offerings to grow high-quality premium fish on the doorstep of major world markets in a controlled, land-based, environmentally sustainable manner," Cell Aquaculture chairman Robert Sewell said.

The Holland-based facility will use Aquaculture's technology and equipment to raise 50 tonne of fish per annum in a controlled environment.


Mr Sewell said under the joint venture, the Dutch operations will act as a display facility in the hope of developing further into the European market.

He said initial sales of Australian barramundi to the European market are scheduled in the third quarter of 2006, as expected.

The company, which listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in July last year, said it hopes to develop more European facilities in the United Kingdom and Spain.

It has also expressed interest in supplying barramundi to the United States and Asia.

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