

'Jaws of life' now powered by batteries

KUALA LUMPUR: The latest version of the "jaws of life", a hydraulic spreader and cutting tool used to save victims trapped in crushed cars, is now powered by batteries.

"It is now called e-draulic instead of hydraulic," said Azrin Shah B Abdullah at his company's booth at the Defence Services Asia 2012 exhibition.

"They run with a lithium-ion battery pack, or can be plugged into any electrical outlet.

"This makes it more portable and faster to operate than conventional hydraulic tools," said Azrin, who is branch manager of Kejuruteraan Asas Jaya Sdn Bhd.

They run with a lithium-ion battery pack, or can be plugged into any electrical outlet.

— AZRIN SHAH B ABDULLAH

He said although the e-draulic tools could only be used for 30 minutes after each charge, they matched the performance of conventional hydraulic tools.

"Each unit weighs between 17kg to 23kg and can be used immediately with zero set up. You just press the on button, and you can start using it.

"Using conventional tools, the Fire Department has to carry hoses and the hydraulic control box, and it takes time to assemble everything," said Azrin, adding that conventional tools had the advantage of being used underwater.