

For Immediate Release
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BC FERRIES SIGNS CONTRACT TO BUILD NEW INTERMEDIATE SIZE VESSEL Vancouver Shipyards to build new ship in North Vancouver

VICTORIA – In keeping with its commitment to accelerate the replacement of its older vessels, BC Ferries announced today it has signed a \$45.5 million contract with Vancouver Shipyards, a Washington Marine Group company, to build a new 125-car intermediate size ferry. Construction on the 100 metre vessel will begin later this year and the ship is expected to enter service by the summer of 2008.

The new intermediate vessel will allow for the retirement of the 46-year old Queen of Tsawwassen. “By updating the fleet we are building a better BC Ferries for our customers and the communities we serve,” said David L. Hahn, BC Ferries President and CEO. The new ship will sail initially on the Earls Cove – Saltery Bay route on the Sunshine Coast. The design of the vessel includes a comfortable lounge, a snack bar and a new state of the art lifesaving system.

The process for selecting the successful builder was started last year with 14 shipyards invited to participate in the prequalification process for the intermediate vessel, as a result of which, two Canadian shipyards and one international yard were short listed. Last year, the three yards submitted bids in response to the Request for Proposals, and on September 20, 2005, BC Ferries signed a formal letter of intent with the Washington Marine Group.

“The new vessel is just one part of our commitment to keep pace with the needs and expectations of our customers,” said Hahn. “Under the fixed price contract, the shipyard is responsible for the detailed design and construction of the vessel. The shipyard guarantees performance related to speed, carrying capacity, manoeuvrability, fuel consumption and delivery”. The design of this new vessel underwent stringent test criteria including tank testing of the hull and simulated demonstration of handling characteristics.

BC Ferries followed a rigorous, world-wide competitive tendering process for the new intermediate vessel to ensure it receives a high quality vessel within the required timeframe, with minimal risks at competitive prices.

BC Ferries is fully committed to renewing its infrastructure. Over the next five years, BC Ferries will add eight new vessels at a cost of \$1 billion to ensure the continued safety and reliability of the fleet.

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Vessel Specifications

New Intermediate Vessel Specifications:

Length	100 metres
Breadth	27 metres
Gross Tonnage	approximately 3500
Car Capacity	125 vehicles
Passenger Capacity	600
Service Speed	14.5 knots
Four right angle drive (RAD) propulsion system	

CONCEPT DRAWING:

