

Stena Line Invests £200m In New Scottish Port



Released on: February 15, 2010, 7:59 am

Author: [Stena Line](#)

Industry: [Travel](#)

Stena Line has announced investment details of approximately £200m in a new ferry port facility at Loch Ryan in Scotland. A 28 acre site two miles north of Cairnryan has been chosen to locate the facility which will be constructed to accommodate a mix of travel and freight customers all year round. The investment also includes the addition of two large modern ferries when the port becomes fully operational on its Irish Sea service to Belfast Port.

Construction work at the new port is anticipated to take approximately 20 months, creating over 900 jobs, and will be completed by autumn 2011. A Harbour Empowerment Order (HEO) to allow the creation of the new port has just been approved by the Scottish Parliament. The new port



facility represents the first in a number of projects across Scotland which have been assigned National Project status by the Scottish

Government and will half the time it currently takes to turn vessels around.

Speaking at the announcement hosted by Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond, Dan Sten Olsson, Chairman of Stena Line outlined the importance of the development to the future prosperity of Scotland. He said: "Today is a historic day for the people of Scotland and indeed Northern Ireland. The investment we have announced will provide Scotland with a first class port facility which underlines and enhances the port's prominence as the third largest gateway in the UK. The link between Scotland and Northern Ireland provides a huge number of benefits for both countries.

Tourism and freight business between Scotland and Northern Ireland has seen significant growth in recent years and despite the current difficult trading conditions, we are confident that an investment of this magnitude will pay dividends over the medium to long term. We believe that working in partnership with the Scottish Government and their counterparts in Northern Ireland we will have state-of-the-art facilities that everyone can be proud of."

Speaking at the announcement, First Minister Alex Salmond said: "This new development will safeguard and create 1,400 jobs and trigger significant investment in Dumfries and Galloway. I am delighted to welcome the decision to approve this project and Stena Line's commitment and continuing contribution to the Scottish economy. The relocation of the port to the new Loch Ryan Port will also aid tourism with faster ferry crossings between Scotland and [Northern Ireland](#) and help the regeneration of Stranraer as a major marine leisure area. This is a significant day for transport and investment in Scotland, and today's announcements highlight the Scottish Government's continued commitment to working with investors to support jobs and the economy and to keep Scotland moving."

In 2008, Stena Line opened a new £37m port facility in Belfast harbour, which First Minister Salmond attended. Stena Line is the largest [ferry operator](#) on the Irish Sea offering the biggest fleet and route choice between Britain and Ireland. Routes between Britain and [Ireland](#) for travel and freight customers include Stranraer -Belfast, Fleetwood-Larne, Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire/Dublin Port and Fishguard-Rosslare.

Notes to Editors:

About**Stena****Line:**

Stena Line is the [Irish Sea ferries](#) market leader, offering the biggest ferry fleet and the widest choice of [ferry crossing](#) routes between Britain and Ireland, including Stranraer to Belfast, Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire and Dublin Port, Fishguard to Rosslare and Fleetwood to Larne. The company carries over three million passengers on its Irish Sea routes each year, more than its rival operators combined.

Stena Line PR Contact:

Nigel Tilson
UK Communications Manager
Victoria Terminal 4
West Bank Road
Belfast BT3 9JL
075 0146 2677
www.steneline.co.uk

~~~~~

Press release distributed via EPR Network (<http://express-press-release.net/submit-press-release.php>)