**11th February 2019**

**Stena Line introduces Stena Forecaster to Belfast – Liverpool service**

**As a part of the ongoing development of Stena Line’s Irish Sea route network, the Stena Forecaster is transferred from Stena RoRo to Stena Line and will enter service on the Belfast - Liverpool route from Tuesday, 12 February 2019. Stena Forerunner will transfer back to the North Sea and operation on Rotterdam-Killingholme.**

 “This is another important step in our expansion programme for our ‘diagonal corridor’ services to and from Belfast. Stena Forecaster will help us continue to deliver a reliable and high-quality service to our freight customers. The 3,000 lane metre ship will help to boost capacity ahead of next year’s exciting introduction of the first of two new, larger E-Flexer ships which are currently under construction in China. The new ships will significantly raise both freight and travel capacity and as well as service levels,” says Paul Grant, Trade Director Irish Sea North.

Stena Forecaster will make two departures daily Monday to Friday and will partner the two RoPax vessels Stena Lagan and Stena Mersey on the Belfast-Liverpool route.

**Technical Facts M/S Stena Forecaster:**

Built: 2003, Dalian Shipyard, Dalian, China

Length: 195 m

Width: 27 m

Draft: 6.6 m

Engine: Four Sulzer 8ZAL40S diesels

Max speed: 22.5 knots

Freight capacity: 3 000 lane meters

***-ends.***

**For more information please contact Ciaran Kinkead, Duffy Rafferty Communications on Belfast +44 (0) 2890 73088.**

*Stena Line is one of Europe's leading ferry companies with 38 vessels and 20 routes in Northern Europe. Stena Line is an important part of the European logistics network and develops new intermodal freight solutions by combining transport by rail, road and sea. Stena Line also plays an important role for tourism in Europe with its extensive passenger operations. The company is family-owned, was founded in 1962 and is headquartered in Gothenburg. Stena Line is part of the Stena AB Group, which has about 15 000 employees and an annual turnover of around 36,5 billion SEK. For more information please visit* [*www.stenaline.com*](http://www.stenaline.com)