**December 23rd, 2019**

**SHE’S HERE!!! STENA ESTRID ARRIVES IN HOLYHEAD**

***Stena Line’s newest ferry completes her 10,000 mile journey from China to Irish Sea***

STENA Line’s newest ferry *Stena Estrid* arrived in Holyhead this morning (Monday) after a five-week 10,000 mile journey from the AVIC Weihai Shipyard in north-western China, where she was built.

The first of five next generation Stena Line RoPax vessels to be completed at the shipyard, *Stena Estrid* sailed into the Welsh port at approximately 7.00am, following a brief stop in Dublin last night for a successful berthing trial.

Now *Estrid* will undergo final preparations before starting service on the Holyhead to Dublin route in mid-January.

Manned by a much-reduced crew of 27, with no passengers on board, *Estrid* has just completed an incredible voyage of well over 10,000 miles, with a number of stops along the way to refuel and stock up on fresh provisions.

The first stage of the journey was a 2,657 nautical miles trip to Singapore, from where she progressed through the Malacca Straits to Galle in Sri Lanka, before crossing the Indian Ocean and making its way up through the Suez Canal.

A trip across the Mediterranean Sea took *Stena Estrid* to Algeciras where she was joined by Onboard Sales and Services crew members to undertake familiarisation training during the final leg of her journey, which saw her travel through the Atlantic Ocean and across the Bay of Biscay before finally arriving at her new home in Holyhead this morning.

Speaking on arrival in Holyhead, Senior Master Matthew Lynch said: “After six years of planning and construction, and five weeks of sailing around the world, it’s hard to believe that we’re finally here in Holyhead.

“It’s been an amazing journey for all of us and I must say that I’m blown away by *Estrid.* ­– from the way she looks, the quality of the build and finish, the facilities on board and. Of course, how she handles herself at sea.

“Anyone who knows me knows that my expectations are always very high and *Estrid* has far exceeded them! I’ve worked on passenger vessels for 24 years - seven on cruise ships and 17 on ferries - and this ship really is revolution not evolution,” he added.

“During our 10,000 mile trip, she’s been smooth, quiet, comfortable and very capable - performing well in all the conditions we faced. Now, we are so excited to be ‘home’ and look forward to welcoming the rest of my crew on board to see their reaction to *Estrid*! I am confident they will be just as impressed as I am with the ship.

**[more…]**

“We really cannot wait to see how the ship is received by our guests when we embark on our maiden voyage to Dublin in a few weeks’ time. I believe they are going to be blown away by it!” he added.

At 215 metres in length, *Stena Estrid* has the space to carry 120 cars and 1,000 passengers, with a freight capacity of 3,100 lane meters, meaning a 50 per cent increase in freight tonnage,.

A further two of the new ferries are also destined for the Irish Sea with *Stena Edda* expected to commence operations from Liverpool to Belfast next spring, and a third vessel *Stena Embla* to be introduced on the same route in early 2021.

The introduction of these two ships will increase freight capacity on the Liverpool to Belfast route by 20 per cent.

***STENA ESTRID* FAST-FACTS**

The name Estrid is connected to Stena Line’s Scandinavian heritage. It is an Old Norse eastern-Nordic version of the name Astrid. Estrid is commonly found on old runestones and means ‘divinely beautiful’.

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| Builder | AVIC Weihai Shipyard Co (Weihai, China) |
| Type | Ro-Pax ship |
| Ferry route / homeports | Dublin-Holyhead |
| Operator | STENA LINE |
| Speed | 22 kn / 41 kph / 25 mph |
| Length (LOA) | 215 m / 705 ft |
| Beam (width) | 28 m / 92 ft |
| Gross Tonnage | 41,671 gt |
| Lane Metres | 3,100 |
| Passengers | 1,000 |
| Cars | 120 |
| Freight vehicles | 210 |
| Cabins | 175 |

Stena Line is the largest ferry operator on the Irish Sea, offering the biggest fleet and the widest choice of routes between Britain and Ireland including Holyhead to Dublin, Fishguard to Rosslare, Cairnryan to Belfast, Liverpool to Belfast, and Heysham to Belfast routes, a total of 232 weekly sailing options. Stena Line also offers a direct service between Rosslare to Cherbourg with three return crossings a week.

**[ends]**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES: For further information, please contact Lawrence Duffy or Michael Rafferty of Duffy Rafferty Communications om +44 (0) 28 9073 0880 or** **info@duffyrafferty.com** **OR Simon Palmer at Stena Line on +353 868858789 or** **simon.palmer@stenaline.com****.**