

PRESS RELEASE October 16, 2025

New Stena Line vessel ready to set sail for home

Stena Line's newest vessel, Stena Connecta, was officially named at the CMI Shipyard in Weihai, China on October 16, and will soon begin her maiden voyage to her new home port on the Irish Sea. Alongside Stena Futura, which entered service in September, these two new freight ferries will boost freight capacity by 40 percent on the Belfast–Heysham route.

Attending the ceremony were Stena Line CEO Niclas Mårtensson, members of the company's executive team, and Stena AB owner Dan Sten Olsson.

“It is with great pride that we celebrate yet another milestone for our fleet and our company today. Stena Connecta and her sister vessel represent the very latest in maritime technology and will not only play a crucial role in maintaining essential transport links in Ireland and the UK but also make a significant contribution to our sustainability goals of reducing CO₂ emissions by 30 percent by 2030,” said Niclas Mårtensson, CEO of Stena Line.

Next-generation hybrid technology

Stena Connecta is a New Max RoRo ship built for maximised freight capacity, with 2,800 lane metres across its 147-metre length. It uses a multi-hybrid propulsion system enabling the use of battery power, biofuel, and methanol and has two 28x4 metre Norsepower Rotor Sails™ that can save up to 9% in fuel on its Irish Sea route between Belfast and Heysham. Its sister vessel, Stena Futura, is also ready for sail installation.

Strengthening connectivity across the Irish Sea

Stena Line is the largest ferry operator on the Irish Sea, with a fleet of 13 vessels (including Stena Connecta, which will enter service in January 2026). The company operates up to 238 weekly sailings, offering a wide network of routes that includes combined passenger and freight services from Belfast to Cairnryan and Liverpool, Dublin to Holyhead, and Rosslare to Fishguard, as well as dedicated freight routes from Belfast to Heysham and Dublin. This year marks 30 years of Stena Line operations on the Irish Sea, during which the company has played a vital role in supporting both trade and communities across the region.

“Our investment in Stena Connecta and Stena Futura demonstrates our strong confidence in the continued growth of the Irish Sea region and our commitment to strengthening trade and connectivity. These vessels were commissioned as a direct response to customer demand for increased freight capacity on our routes,” added Niclas Mårtensson.

Stena Connecta will soon begin her delivery voyage from China to the Irish Sea, a journey expected to take several weeks. She will enter regular service on the Belfast–Heysham route from January 2026.

Facts – Stena Connecta

- **Length:** 147 m
- **Beam:** 26.3 m
- **Built:** 2023–2025, CMI Shipyard, Weihai, China
- **Passenger capacity:** 12
- **Crew:** 26
- **Height clearance:** 5.3 m
- **Width clearance:** 12 m
- **Freight capacity:** 2,848 lane metres
- **Route:** Belfast – Heysham (approx. 12 sailings per week)

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***Stena Line** is one of Europe's leading ferry companies with approximately 40 vessels and 19 routes in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean Sea, operating 25,700 sailings each year. 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 in tourism in Europe with its extensive passenger operations. The company is family-owned, was founded in 1962 and is headquartered in Gothenburg. Stena Line has 6,200 employees and an annual turnover of 19.5 billion SEK. For more information, please visit www.stenaline.com*