

PRESS RELEASE 4 NOVEMBER 2025

Stena Line acquires Wasaline

Stena Line strengthens its position in the Baltic Sea by acquiring NLC Ferry Ab Oy/Wasaline and taking over operations of the ferry route between Umeå in Sweden and Vaasa in Finland.

“It is with great joy and enthusiasm that we at Stena Line take on the responsibility for Wasaline and the route between two important regions and cities, Umeå and Vaasa,” says Niclas Mårtensson, CEO of Stena Line.

The only existing ferry connection between Umeå and Vaasa is jointly owned by the two cities through the 50/50-owned company Kvarken Link, which in turn owns NLC Ferry which operates under the auxiliary name Wasaline. Under the agreement signed today, Stena Line will acquire NLC Ferry and take over the operation of Wasaline. The vessel Aurora Botnia, which sails the route, will continue to be owned by Kvarken Link, the company jointly owned by the two cities.

“It is strategically important to ensure that the service between Vaasa and Umeå continues and has the possibility to grow in the future. We look forward to continuing to develop our work on environmental and operational efficiency together with Stena Line. Wasaline’s staff, both onshore and onboard, will continue to deliver the same great service as today. This will be a major boost for the region, bringing significant positive synergies,” says Peter Ståhlberg, CEO of Wasaline.

Opportunities for Intermodality

In July 2025, Wasaline entered into a biogas agreement with Gasum and a Fuel EU Maritime pooling agreement with Stena Line, making the Umeå–Vaasa route the first international green shipping corridor.

With this next step Stena Line further strengthens its position as one of the leaders in sustainability within the ferry industry.

“With Wasaline, we not only gain a vessel equipped with the latest environmental technology and capable of sailing CO₂-neutral on a regular basis, we also enhance our access to alternative fuels. In addition, we gain a strong intermodal transport link toward Gothenburg and Trelleborg, and onwards to the European continent,” adds Niclas Mårtensson.

“Together with the City of Vaasa, we have strengthened the connections across the Kvarken and proven that the service is profitable. This has happened during a turbulent time when infrastructure, civil defense, and preparedness have become more relevant than ever. For us in Umeå, it is important to take steps that strengthen resilience and opportunities in our part of the world,” says Hans Lindberg, Chair of the Municipal Executive Board, Umeå Municipality.

“We are very proud of how brave we were, in both the City of Vaasa and Umeå Municipality, when we decided that the ferry connection across the Kvarken was essential. The project became reality thanks to CEO Peter Ståhlberg and the entire Wasaline team. The growing number of passengers and freight volumes each year show that it was the right decision. Now, it is time to bring in a larger operator with the knowledge, expertise, and resources that the cities themselves do not possess. We are very pleased to have found a shared vision with Stena Line,” says Frans Villanen, Chair of the City Council of Vaasa.

Next steps

The acquisition is subject to approval by the respective municipal councils of Umeå and Vaasa, expected to take place in November 2025. The transaction is also conditional to customary closing conditions such as authority approvals. The closing is expected to take place in the beginning of the year 2026.

Stena Line is one of Europe’s leading ferry operators, with 20 routes across the continent. In the Baltic Sea, Stena Line currently operates ferry routes between Trelleborg–Rostock, Karlskrona–Gdynia, Ventspils–Travemünde, and Nynäshamn–Liepāja. With the addition of Umeå–Vaasa, Stena Line will have its fifth Baltic Sea route. Stena Line also operates several ports in the region.

Press Conference

A press conference will be held on **Tuesday, 4 November at 13:00 CET / 14:00 EET** at Styrelsegården, Vaasa, Finland.

Address: Vasaesplanaden 10, Vaasa.

Digital participation is available via this link:

<https://kepit.tv/#/c/wasaline/e/UHYMAKAS5S?lang=en>

Facts about Wasaline

Wasaline is the world’s northernmost shipping company, operating daily passenger and freight services between Vaasa, Finland and Umeå, Sweden. Wasaline is the first carbon-neutral ferry operator in the Baltic Sea. Its hybrid vessel, Aurora Botnia, runs on biogas and batteries. Both the ship and Wasaline’s services have been awarded the Key Flag Symbol, a recognition of Finnish work.

More information: www.wasaline.com

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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 34,700 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 6,550 employees and an annual turnover of 19.6 billion SEK. For more information please visit www.steneline.com