

PRESS RELEASE November 21, 2025

Stena Line Celebrates Naming Ceremony of Stena Futura

Belfast Harbour hosts first ship naming ceremony in two decades

Over 200 guests attended the official naming ceremony of Stena Line's newest vessel, *Stena Futura*, at Belfast Harbour. This state-of-the-art hybrid freight ferry marks a significant milestone in Stena Line's 30-year partnership with Belfast and its ambitious journey toward sustainable shipping.

The 147-metre *Stena Futura* is the first of two next-generation "NewMax" freight vessels purpose-built for the busy Belfast–Heysham route. Designed with cutting-edge technology, the ship is methanol-ready and equipped with hybrid propulsion systems, including battery capability and shore power connectivity. These innovations will help Stena Line achieve its goal of reducing CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2030.

The naming ceremony was carried out by the ship's Godmother, Dr Madeleine Olsson Ericksson, a member of the Olsson family, owners of Stena Line and guests included Deputy Lieutenant of the Borough of Belfast, Dr Philip McGarry, the First Minister, Michelle O'Neill, Deputy First Minister, Emma Little-Pengelly and Dr Theresa Donaldson, Chair of Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

The ceremony also marked the key milestone for the company, celebrating 30 years of Stena Line operations in Belfast since moving their services to the city in 1995.

Speaking at the event, Stena Line CEO Niclas Mårtensson said: "*The naming of Stena Futura is a proud moment for Stena Line and Belfast Harbour. This vessel along with sister ship Stena Connecta represents over £100 million investment in our Irish Sea network and clearly demonstrates our ongoing commitment to meeting growing freight demand, while leading the way in sustainable shipping.*"

Deputy First Minister, Emma Little-Pengelly said: "*Stena Line has been part of the fabric of the Northern Ireland economy for decades, connecting people, goods, and opportunities between Northern Ireland, GB and beyond.*"

"This investment of over £100 million is a testament to Stena's belief in our potential and confidence in our region. This is a proud moment for our maritime sector, and for Northern Ireland. I thank Stena Line for its continued commitment, and I wish Stena Futura and sister ship Stena Connecta safe and successful voyages ahead."

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Joe O’Neil, Chief Executive of Belfast Harbour, added: *“We were proud to host the naming of Stena Futura at Belfast Harbour and to welcome the Olsson family for this special occasion, marking 30 years of strategic partnership that we truly value.*

“The new vessel is already proving successful on the Belfast–Heysham route, and we can see significant potential for further growth in freight volumes when Stena Connecta enters service next year. We look forward to building on the incredibly strong ties we have with Stena Line, strengthening our collaboration and further enhancing the connectivity that drives long-term economic growth for the region.”

Key Features of Stena Futura:

- Length: 147 metres, Beam: 26.3 metres
- Freight capacity: 2,800 lane metres – an 80% increase on current capacity
- Propulsion: Dual-fuel methanol hybrid with 9 MWh battery capacity
- 12 weekly sailings on the Belfast–Heysham route
- Future-proofed for wind-assist technology and shore power integration

Together with its sister vessel *Stena Connecta*, due to enter service in early 2026, *Stena Futura* will boost freight capacity on the Belfast–Heysham route by 40%, supporting hauliers and exporters with more efficient and environmentally responsible transport solutions.

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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.stenaline.com