

New high-speed ferry for Bermuda

The Government of Bermuda recently signed a contract valued at \$4.99 million to build a 350-passenger, high-speed ferry at Derecktor Shipyards, Bridgeport, Conn.

The 124-foot, high-speed passenger catamaran is based on a design by the U.K.'s BMT Nigel Gee and will operate as a commuter ferry in the morning and evening, transporting passengers on a 12-mile route between St. George and Hamilton. Additionally, during the day the ferry will transport tourists from the cruise ship terminals at the Kings Wharf berth of the Royal Dockyards at the West End of Bermuda to downtown Hamilton and St. George.

Constructed of all aluminum with a resiliently mounted super structure, the catamaran is designed to and built under Lloyd's Register survey.



Propulsion for the ferry will be supplied by four MTU 12V2000M70 diesel engines that will drive four Hamilton 512 waterjets via ZF marine gears. The service speed will be 33 knots.

The ferry is designed as a bow loader for fast turnaround times, but offers optional side loading where bow loading facilities do not exist.

The enclosed, heated and air conditioned main deck will have seating for 212, plus four wheel-

chairs. A kiosk for food services is located at the aft end. Unisex restrooms, one handicap accessible, are located port and starboard on the main deck.

The weather deck has covered and open seating for another 137 passengers.

There are two additional rest rooms located forward amidships, adjacent to the pilothouse, one for the passengers and one for the crew.

The vessel is scheduled for delivery late June 2006.