

# Fresh ferries for New Zealand

*Ship & Boat International* looks at two vessels due for delivery to the country in the forthcoming year

New Zealand's demand for reliable ferries has sparked a number of contracts for said vessels for this territory. Boatbuilder Q-West, which oversees a construction yard on the Wanganui River, in New Zealand's North Island, is currently completing a 388-passenger catamaran for Fullers Group, which operates the Auckland ferry network. Designed by Incat Crowther, the ferry, reported to be one of the largest that Q-West has handled to date, will feature a length of 34m, a beam of 9.5m and a moulded depth of 3.05m, with a 1.25m draught.

Passengers will be seated across two decks, in both indoor and outdoor spaces; 212 in a cabin on the main deck and 44 in a cabin on the upper deck, with a further 82 seated beneath a fabric awning on the upper deck. In addition, the ferry will boast room to carry an additional 50 standing passengers. The three-man crew will operate from an asymmetric wheelhouse at the forward end of the upper deck.

Large side gates will be affixed to both decks, with hinging articulated ramps mounted on the transom port



Q-West's forthcoming, Incat-designed 34m, 388-passenger ferry is one of the yard's largest newbuilds to date

and starboard, to facilitate fast passenger turnaround times. Additional deck equipment includes a Palfinger PK4501M crane on the foredeck, to load cargo and

vessel stores, and there will be a series of bicycle racks fitted on the main deck aft.

The ferry will be powered by a pair of Cummins QSK38 main engines, each delivering 1,044kW at 1,800rpm, driving two Tiger five-blade, fixed pitch 1,130mm propellers through ZX gearboxes. Cummins is also providing the means of electrical service, via twin 100kVA generators. A bow thruster, make as yet unconfirmed, will be affixed to the port hull for added manoeuvrability.

Together, the configuration described above will grant the cat an operating speed of 26knots. Onboard tank capacities include 8,000litres for fuel oil and 3,000litres for fresh water. Classification is to be handled locally, by Maritime New Zealand. A spokesperson for Q-West tells *Ship & Boat International* that delivery remains on schedule for July this year.