

THE FERRY "F.-A.-GAUTHIER" LEAVES THE SHIPYARD IN CASTELLAMMARE DI STABIA**The first LNG powered ferry ever built in Italy**

Trieste, 1 April 2015 – After having successfully completed the Liquefied natural gas (LNG) sea trials too, "*F.-A.-Gauthier*", the latest generation ferry built by Fincantieri in its shipyard in Castellammare di Stabia (Naples), will leave the yard today sailing to Matane, in Québec, Canada. The delivery to Société des traversiers du Québec (STQ), a Québec crown corporation that operates in maritime passenger and vehicles transport, will take place when the ferry will arrive in Canada.

The new vessel represents **a genuine technological revolution**. It is the first LNG powered ferry ever built in Italy and the first of the kind to enter into service in North America.

A genuine concentration of technology, it adopts the **most advanced solutions in terms of energy saving and low environmental impact**, enabling a major reduction in emissions of CO₂ (carbon dioxide), NO_x (nitrogen oxides) and reducing to almost zero the SO_x (sulphur oxides). This ship, which is equipped with a unique integrated diesel electric propulsion system has four dual fuel diesel power generators installed and it can run on either gas (Liquid Natural Gas - LNG) or marine diesel oil (MDO). This propulsion system fully meets the ecological requirements of the ECA areas (Baltic Sea, North Sea, Caribbean, North America).

The ship, certified in **the highest class designated by international registries** for this type of service, is also in ice class 1A with regards to the hull and propulsion class 1AS, which are the highest levels awarded by these classification registries and which allow the vessel to operate non-stop in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, known for its adverse weather conditions. "*F.-A.-Gauthier*" is also able to break sea ice, thanks to its innovative bow and stern, designed and patented by Fincantieri.

The ferry's two electric propulsion engines operate azimuth thrusters, each equipped with two Contra-Rotating propellers, which together with bow thrusters, make the ferry exceptionally manoeuvrable. These characteristics, combined with a complex and extensive system of ramps and doors at both bow and stern, will allow the vessel to load and unload very quickly.

133 metres long and 22 metres wide, “*F.-A.-Gauthier*” will be able to reach a maximum service speed of 20 knots and to carry 800 passengers and 180 vehicles. The ferry will be used in the Province of Québec on the Matane–Baie-Comeau–Godbout route, which, with 1,600 sailings per year, provides transport for more than 180,000 passengers and over 85,000 vehicles, allowing them to reach the opposite side of the river in a 2-hour navigation, instead of a 10-hour drive.

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A Québec crown corporation, **Société des traversiers du Québec (STQ)** operates directly or in partnership eleven ferry routes and two maritime services along the St. Lawrence River with its fleet of 18 vessels. In the course of a single year, its 630 employees make about 115,000 crossings with 16 of these vessels, carrying over 5.1 million passengers and 2.1 million vehicles. STQ ferry crossings are important contributors to social, economic, and tourism development in the areas they serve. As Québec's leading ferry services provider, STQ enjoys a reputation for reliability and superior service dating back more than 43 years.

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and number one by diversification and presence in all high value-added market sectors, having built more than 7,000 vessels in over 230 years of its maritime history. It is world leader in cruise ship construction and a reference player in other sectors, from naval vessels to cruise ferries, from mega-yachts to special high value-added vessels, from ship repairs and conversions to offshore vessels. Headquartered in Trieste (Italy), the Group has approximately 21,700 employees, of whom around 7,700 in Italy, and 21 shipyards in 4 continents. In 2013 the Group acquired VARD, a company listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange that builds offshore support vessels for oil & gas exploration and production. Fincantieri has doubled in size to become the West's leading shipbuilder. Fincantieri operates in the United States through its subsidiary Fincantieri Marine Group (FMG). This company, which serves important government customers, including the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, has three shipyards (Marinette Marine, Bay Shipbuilding, Ace Marine), all located in the Great Lakes region. Fincantieri is present in the UAE with Etihad Ship Building, a joint venture set up with Al Fattan Ship Industries and Melara Middle East, to design, produce and sell different types of civilian and military ships as well as perform maintenance and refitting activities.

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