Brittany Ferries To Launch New Poole-bilbao Freight Service

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Brittany Ferries has chartered a vessel to carry freight between Poole and Bilbao, in northern Spain. A pure RoRo craft, Pelican has the capacity for around one hundred unaccompanied trailers and twelve drivers and will begin service with the company in early February.

She comes from shipping company Maritime Nantaise and will operate two round-trips per week. The charter, which includes crew, is for twelve months, but with the option of extension.

“Freight activity to and from the United Kingdom is undergoing a period of strong growth, particularly the unaccompanied market,” commented Simon Wagstaff, Brittany Ferries freight director. “We see this on a daily basis in the garages of our vessels, especially on those operating to and from Spain. Our charter of Pelican will help us meet growing demand from freight customers and free up more garage space on other ships.”

Last year Brittany Ferries reported a 20 per cent increase in freight traffic across all routes. 2016 has also started strongly and the company hopes that greater capacity will drive even more business through Poole.

“There is a very limited charter market for this type of vessel and we were delighted to find a cost-effective vessel on the French International Register,” added Simon Wagstaff. “This will allow us to operate effectively, but also to balance the books in this important area of our activity.”

Pelican specifications :

- Vessel type : RoRo
- Constructed: 1999 in Norway.
- Length: 155.5 m
- Power: 1 WARTSILA engine, delivering 15 600 kW at 500 rpm
- Speed: 14 to 20 knots.

-Ends-

Notes to editors

Please find a photo of Pelican attached.

About Brittany Ferries

Brittany Ferries is a passenger car and freight service operating from eleven ports, linking four countries: UK - France, UK - Spain and Ireland - France. Brittany Ferries is the market leader on the Western Channel, and a leading supplier of ferry-inclusive motoring holidays to France and Spain. Further information can be found by visiting: www.brittanyferries.com.

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