

### **Eckerö Link develops its tonnage – acquires M/S Stena Nautica to replace M/S Fjärdvägen**

The Eckerö Group continues its commitment to sustainable and efficient maritime transport through the acquisition of the vessel **M/S Stena Nautica**. The vessel will be deployed in service for the Group's subsidiary **Eckerö Link Ab** and will replace **M/S Fjärdvägen** on the route between **Långnäs and Naantali**.

The acquisition is a strategic step in line with the Eckerö Group's long-term vision of offering "floating bridges" between regions and creating a cohesive and sustainable transport chain across the Baltic Sea.

With M/S Stena Nautica, Eckerö Link gains a more purpose-built vessel that enables smoother cargo handling, improved energy efficiency and strong potential for the future development of both freight and passenger traffic. M/S Stena Nautica was already considered as an alternative at the time of the acquisition of M/S Fjärdvägen, as she is better suited in size for the current service and offers drive-through capability. Now that the vessel has become available on the market, the company has decided to proceed with the replacement.

The acquisition also creates conditions for a more customer-oriented timetable and more efficient utilisation of the entire transport chain. The vessel allows drive-through traffic on two decks, significantly improving logistics flow. To fully utilise this capability, adapted infrastructure is required at the terminal ports in Långnäs and Naantali. Eckerö Link is already engaged in advanced discussions with both ports to enable the necessary arrangements. Overall, the investment strengthens Åland's role as a maritime transport hub and creates new opportunities for both business and society.

"The acquisition of M/S Stena Nautica is an important step in our long-term development of efficient and sustainable maritime connections. The vessel provides us with improved operational conditions and strengthens our role as a stable player in regional infrastructure," says **Björn Blomqvist**, President and CEO of the Eckerö Group.

Eckerö Link has a clear focus on integrating freight traffic and logistics solutions into the Group's operations. With M/S Stena Nautica, the opportunities to further optimise fuel consumption, energy efficiency and cargo coordination are strengthened – factors that are crucial in a competitive and increasingly climate-conscious transport sector.

"M/S Stena Nautica fits very well into our operation and creates new opportunities to further develop both cargo flows and customer solutions. Together with the ports, we can now take the next step towards an even more efficient and competitive service," says **Jonas Henriksson**, Managing Director of Eckerö Link Ab.

The transaction is a natural part of the Eckerö Group's strategy to offer sustainable and efficient transport solutions at sea, where maritime transport is the obvious choice from both an environmental and efficiency perspective.

#### **Facts about M/S Stena Nautica**

- Built in 1986 by Nakskov Skibsværft A/S, Denmark (rebuilt in 2002)
- Length: 135.6 metres
- Width: 24 metres
- Passenger capacity: 900
- Cargo capacity: 1,265 lane metres
- Gross tonnage: 19,763
- Speed: 17.5 knots
- Clear height: 4.4 metres
- Clear width: 5.7 metres
- Draught: 5.6 metres
- Engines: 2 × MAN-B&W 6L45GB
- Engine power: 12,500 kW



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