



Welcome to the iTransfer (Innovative Transport Solutions for Fjords, Estuaries and Rivers) project newsletter. This edition features the latest news and information from the project.

iTransfer aims to help make ferry transport more freely accessible and sustainable, and encourage more people to travel by water. In areas in the North Sea Region (NSR) there are opportunities to replace existing vehicle routes with passenger ferries as a viable alternative. Ferry transport is sustainable, takes cars off the road, connects people between their jobs, homes and markets, facilitates tourism and provides a lifeline to remote communities. For more information visit www.itransferproject.eu



iTransfer final conference in Edinburgh

Innovation for a competitive ferry industry in the NSR

Scottish Transport Minister Keith Brown MSP gave a key note speech at the iTransfer final project conference in November on the importance of innovation and collaboration in developing solutions to the challenges facing the ferry industry and maintaining the North Sea Region's competitiveness.

The conference, held at the Surgeons Hall in Edinburgh, gathered over 50 delegates from industry, policy and European transport associations to discuss enhancing the efficiency of existing ferry operations through new technologies, solutions for encouraging a more supportive policy framework for public transport, reducing ferries' fuel consumption and emissions and developing innovative sustainable ferry designs.

The Transport Minister said: "It is essential that the ferry and shipping industries continue to demonstrate the innovation and excellence they are renowned for, to develop new ways to improve efficiency in the face of increasing costs and competition from other sectors."



Gravesend

iTransfer project drops the anchor as journey comes to an end

This final iTransfer newsletter showcases some of the innovative partner activities aimed at delivering passenger transport solutions in the North Sea Region (NSR) and highlights the projects' wider impacts and achievements from over the past four years.

Focusing on ferry connections, design and tendering, iTransfer has helped ferry designers and operators understand the market for passenger ferries, improve the operations of existing vessels, and benefit from the latest green technologies.

For more information visit www.itransferproject.eu/news/end-of-project/



Kent County Council

Optimising ferry policy

Kent County Council (KCC) has taken the opportunity offered by improvements at the landing in Gravesend to tender for the cross-Thames ferry service.

With support and input from iTransfer partners, KCC set out to produce a comprehensive and fit for purpose set of tender documents to enable procurement of an improved service.

The Institute for Sustainability and the UCL Energy Institute have completed research into sustainability challenges in the public procurement of ferry services faced by vessel operators and procurers which will help stakeholders work together to address them.

For more information visit www.itransferproject.eu/news/optimising-policy/



Damen

Exploring sustainable ferry design

The need for cleaner and more efficient vessels has led to sustainable technology being a fast-paced and developing area of the maritime industry. With increased pressure due to sharply rising fuel and energy prices, ferry operators need to identify new solutions and future opportunities to help drive innovation and overcome industry challenges.

Ferry operators Doeksen and TESO have both developed separate sustainable designs for new ferries that will operate on the Wadden Sea in the Netherlands. The Dutch ship builder Damen collaborated with Doeksen to develop their designs.

Damen identified that two smaller vessels represented the optimal solution which helped determine the material and design of the hull and find solutions for efficient propulsion. Working closely together, the ferry operator and designer identified and developed sustainable solutions.

For more information visit www.itransferproject.eu/news/sustainable-design/



Weserfähre Bremerhaven

Developing innovative ferry landing solutions

In order to develop efficient and sustainable ferry connections it is necessary to have suitable infrastructure in place and ferry landing equipment does not always meet current standards for disabled use, sustainability and operational use.

Gravesham Borough Council has produced a comprehensive report on accessible ferry landings. This focuses on their experience in investing in a new pontoon, the final design of which was derived through transnational input.

Their report includes a design checklist, outlining the principles and processes behind developing accessible landings which can be used throughout the NSR region and beyond.

SEStran with their sub-partner East Lothian Council used Gravesham's design and accessibility principles to enhance the landing at Galloway's Pier, North Berwick. This will now provide a base for encouraging more vessels and exploring new cross-Forth ferry routes.

For more information visit www.itransferproject.eu/news/innovative-landing/



iTransfer partners

Lead partner

1. Institute for Sustainability (UK)

Partners

2. AG Port of Oostende (Belgium)
3. Erlebnis Bremerhaven GmbH, Bremerhaven Touristik (Germany)
4. Damen Shipyards (The Netherlands)
5. Gravesham Borough Council (UK)
6. Kent County Council (UK)
7. Magistrat Bremerhaven (Germany)
8. Rederij Doeksen (The Netherlands)
9. SEStran (UK)
10. Teso (The Netherlands)
11. Weserfähre GmbH (Germany)

Sub partners to Erlebnis Bremerhaven GmbH, Bremerhaven Touristik

12. Helgoland (Germany)
13. Hal Över (Germany)

Sub partners to SEStran

14. Maid of the Forth (UK)
15. East Lothian Council (UK)

Sub partner to the Institute for Sustainability

- 16 University College London (UK)

Integrating transport modes: water and land

Ferries are one mode of public transport and while they can connect communities across rivers and estuaries, it is important to consider how they link to the wider transport network.

Hal över introduced through-ticketing and developed new software to ensure travel tickets are valid throughout the region's public transport network. Improved integrated ticketing has increased customer patronage for the ferry service and encouraged modal shift.

It has also enabled computerised passenger monitoring. Knowing the exact numbers booked and on board has not only helped make the operation more efficient but has also proved a useful safety tool. Port of Ostend is adapting the latter to help improve safety on crew-boats.

For more information visit www.itransferproject.eu/news/integrating-transport/



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