

## NEWBUILD MILESTONE FOR PRINCESS

28th February 2000

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company announces that it has signed a contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd (MHI) for the construction of two 113,000 gt cruise ships. These are the largest cruise ships ever ordered by the P&O Group and the first to be ordered from MHI.

The ships are for the Princess Cruises fleet and are due for delivery in July 2003 and May 2004 respectively. They are part of an expansion programme which will double the size of the Princess fleet over the next five years and will support the expansion of Princess into the Caribbean.

The ships will have many innovative features and will further extend the Princess concept of Grand Class Cruising with its emphasis on choice, innovation and customer service. They will have diesel and gas turbine propulsion. Not only is this both efficient and environmentally sound but it will also enable better space utilisation with the gas turbine being installed in the funnel area, thereby enabling an even wider range of public rooms and on board facilities to be introduced.

Over 70% of the cabins will be outside cabins and more than 75% of these will have balconies. This maintains the position of Princess as having more standard cabins with balconies than any other cruise line. The ships will also feature four swimming pools, three restaurants, 24 hour dining and three show lounges.

A further key feature will be the incorporation of the latest environmental concepts. These will include low emission propulsion systems and the latest waste treatment technology. Princess has won numerous awards for its advanced environmental standards, including the US Coast Guard's Admiral William M Benkert Award for sound environmental practices, the first time it has been won by a cruise line.

Lord Sterling, Chairman of P&O, who was present for the contract signature, said: "Although this is the first time that our cruise ships will have been built by Mitsubishi it cements a long standing relationship that P&O has with the company. MHI is one of the most technically advanced yards in the world and we have every confidence that they will deliver outstanding vessels for Princess."

### Further information:

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### Note to Editors

1. These two ships form part of a six ship order programme for Princess, first announced on 22 June 1999.
2. The ships will be built in the Nagasaki shipyard of MHI.
3. Technical and other specifications for the new ships are set out in the attached note.

## **MHI/Princess Cruises Newbuilding Project**

- Largest cruise ship ever ordered by P&O at 113,000 grt.
- Diesel and gas turbine electric propulsion.
- 4 medium speed diesel engine driven alternators and 1 gas turbine driven alternator.
- Gas turbine situated in the funnel.
- 3 bow and 3 stern thrusters for good manoeuvrability.
- 4 swimming pools as well as the children's splash pool.
- Aft terrace with pool below.
- Conservatory consisting of a swimming pool and bar, with a balcony deck and sliding glass roof high above.
- A central pool with bar and food outlets
- Health club and spa with outdoors sunken terraced pool.
- Wide ranges of public rooms continuing even further the concept of grand class cruising.
- 24 hour dining concept.
- 3 restaurants.
- Lido café,
- Pizzeria.
- 2 theme restaurants
- Large forward theatre
- Sports bar.
- Casino.
- Atrium with shops, 2 bars, library, writing room and card room.
- Wheelhouse bar with adjacent business centre and wedding chapel.
- Cabaret lounge.
- Aft show lounge.
- Teens' and children's area.
- Virtual reality centre.
- Mini golf.
- Sports deck.
- 71% outside cabins.
- 55% balcony cabins.

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