

Minister for Transport and Veterans  
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Maureen Watt MSP  
Convener  
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



15 October 2014

Dear Maureen

The Committee will recall that the Scottish Ferries Plan, published in December 2012, outlined plans for significant investment in the CalMac fleet.

As part of that on-going investment programme I am pleased to announce the procurement process to build two new ferries for the CalMac fleet.

A Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) for the vessels has been issued by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) on behalf of Scottish Ministers. This will allow CMAL to gauge market interest before issuing a formal Invitation to Tender with a view to awarding the contract in the Spring of 2015.

The successful bidder will undertake detailed design and construction work of two passenger, freight and car ferries of 100 metres length overall, as well as testing, equipping, launch and delivery. The first vessel is to be delivered by the end of 2017. The second vessel will follow some months later.

The ferries are being designed to provide a fully flexible year-round service for Arran and the Uig Triangle, subject to final review by CalMac Ferries Ltd, CMAL and Transport Scotland. The vessels they replace will be cascaded throughout the network.

Kind regards

**KEITH BROWN**