

Aratere Steel Cutting Ceremony

On 23 September 2010, we successfully held the steel cutting ceremony for our newly secured project, ro-pax ferry Aratere, in our shipyard's Hull Fabrication Shop No 7. The ceremony was attended by owner's representative, Mr Peter Clarke, Manager, Marine Projects and Safety of Interislander; Mr Ray Newall, Superintendent; Mr Wallace Cuthbertson, Head of Department (Ships & Mobile Offshore Units in Operations) of DNV; Mr Jarle Forsen, Surveyor from DNV; senior managers and project team members from Sembawang Shipyard.

Sembawang Shipyard was awarded this major upgrading project from Interislander, a division of Kivirail Limited, New Zealand for the lengthening and dry-docking repairs of Aratere. Contracted for S\$32 million, the Aratere is expected in the shipyard in March 2011, whereby a new bow section and a newly fabricated 29.25 metre mid-body section will be fitted to the existing 150-metre ferry. Other major upgrading works include the outfitting and refurbishment of existing passenger areas on the two upper decks. Upon completion of its upgrading and lengthening, the newly enhanced Aratere will continue to operate in New Zealand waters, offering the most modern and high-tech cruise experience across the Cook Strait, through some of New Zealand's most impressive landscapes.

The steel cutting ceremony marked the commencement of steel fabrication of this important project. In her speech, Ms Wong Lee-Lin, Executive Director of Sembawang Shipyard said "We started chasing this contract more than a year ago. When we asked Mr Clarke to come to Sembawang for a getting-to-know Sembawang session, little did he know that we had every intention to get his next job which is, the Aratere.



Mr Peter Clarke of Interislander, activating the start button to commence the steel cutting ceremony.



DNV resident surveyor, Mr Jarle Forsen verifying the steel plate with Royston from QA/QC before commencing the steel cutting

Thereafter, we began the journey of understanding Interislander's requirements, expectations and targets. We thank Mr Clarke and Interislander for the award and in particular, for the co-operation to work with us as a team to take on this interesting but challenging project. To the project team of SSPL, please do your best, we are counting on you to do Sembawang Shipyard proud and I have every confidence that we will deliver the ship on time and in the Sembawang Shipyard's high safety and quality standard."

During the ceremony, Mr Peter Clarke, who is also the Project Director for Aratere project, reiterated his confidence that Sembawang Shipyard will deliver the project on time and to the expected high QHSE standard meeting Interislander's stringent requirements for important coastal ferry operations.



One for the Album!