

## ► VANCOUVER SHIPYARDS

British Columbia Ferry Services Inc (BCFS) has signed a \$45 million contract with Vancouver Shipyards, North Vancouver to build an intermediate size ro-ro ferry (see General Arrangement). According to BCFS the new vessel will allow for the retirement of the **Queen of Tsawwassen** (built by Burrard Drydock Co., North Vancouver) which entered service in 1960 with the **Queen of Sidney** (built by Victoria Machinery Depot; retired several years ago). They were the first two ships built by BCFS. The new ferry is expected to initially replace the **Queen of Tsawwassen** on the Earls Cove/Saltery Bay Sunshine Coast crossing in the summer of 2008.

The 100m (loa) x 27m ferry is a Vancouver Shipyards in-house design and the fixed-price contract is for the design, build and guaranteed performance of the ship. After BCFS's "rigorous, world-wide competitive tendering process" three shipyards had been short-listed by early 2005: Allied Shipbuilders, North Vancouver; Washington Marine Group (owners of Vancouver Shipyards, Victoria Shipyards and the Vancouver Drydock Company); and Remontowa S.A., Poland. The 125-AEQ double-ended ferry (propulsion will be four RAD thrusters) is generally considered to be a hybrid of two existing ships, the **Skeena Queen** and the **Queen of Cumberland**. It incorporates a stretched version of the 100-AEQ **Skeena Queen**'s hull form with a **Queen of Cumberland** superstructure containing bridge and passenger accommodation that spans the main vehicle deck.

Courtesy Vancouver Shipyards

