



## SECOND FERRY JOINS THE SEVERN LINK FAMILY

ANOTHER 'FLYINGCAT' CHANGES HANDS TO JOIN SISTER VESSEL & COMPLETE INITIAL BRISTOL CHANNEL FAST FERRY FLEET

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**Press Release**

**Thursday 6 May 2010**

Ferry operator **Severn Link** has completed the two vessel deal with ferry operator Wightlink, taking ownership of the 'FastCat Ryde' which will service routes across the Bristol Channel as from this year.

The 34 knot Kvaerner 'FlyingCat' passenger catamaran, which carries up to 360 passengers, has now undergone exterior renovations and repaint and will shortly join its sister ship, the former 'FastCat Shanklin', in Swansea, paving the way for the first modern regular ferry service to link the shores of North Devon and South Wales due to commence this spring.

The first ferry, which is currently completing an extensive interior refit in the docks at Swansea's SA1, has been the focus of much public interest, with crowds of people turning out earlier this year to watch it make a brief appearance at Ilfracombe on its way from Portsmouth to its new home in Swansea. The completion of the purchase of the second vessel signals a landmark moment for Severn Link, which is now finalising a series of routes to roll out through 2010.

**Geoff Metcalf, Managing Director of Severn Link**, said, "We are very happy to shortly be able to introduce the second 'FlyingCat' to her new home in South Wales. This is the next major step in being able to commence regular Bristol Channel crossings with a fun, fast and affordable ferry service which will make travelling from the South West of England to South Wales much easier than ever before."

Severn Link is currently on the countdown to announce a launch date for the first route to cross from Ilfracombe to South Wales. Schedules, pricing and booking information will shortly be available on [www.severnlink.com](http://www.severnlink.com) and through its online Facebook and Twitter channels.

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**Notes to Editors:** Severn Link is currently in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals and weather permits from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, which will all be in place prior to the new vessel being transferred from Portsmouth to Swansea.

SEVERN LINK PRESS OFFICE

BELINDA MCCARTHY

E: PRESS@SEVERNLINK.COM

T: 01278 434231

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