

Pictured above is an artist's rendering of the new 300-metre (984.25-ft) floating cruise dock at Assembly Wharf in Nanaimo. The Nanaimo Port Authority is in the final stages of the environment review and has already issued a call for tenders.

2010 Cruise Season

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floating dock and dolphins. The dock will be large enough to handle the larger cruise ships anticipated with the opening of the new Panama Canal locks in 2014. The new terminal is being built at an angle out from the existing Assembly Wharf in order to minimize dredging requirements.


The project was almost derailed by calls for more consultation by the Snuneymuxw First Nation, however, this has been resolved and the project is on track with tenders called. Construction needs to start by June 1 as financing includes \$8.5 million in federal infrastructure funding that is subject to a March 31, 2011 completion date. The province is contributing \$5 million, the Island Coastal Economic Trust \$3.5 million and the Port Authority \$5 million. The port expects the new dock to eventually attract 30 to 40 ship calls per year.

Unfortunately in 2010, due to scheduling and deployment changes by the cruise line, the very successful end-of-season short 3- and 4-day cruises from Seattle to Victoria and Nanaimo operated by the **Celebrity Mercury** are not on the schedule this year. Because of this, just three large ship calls are planned along with about five calls by mini-cruise ships.

Campbell River

Campbell River faces a disappointing season for the Wei Wai Kum Cruise Ship Terminal as two large cruise ships, the only ones scheduled, have replaced planned Campbell River calls with Nanaimo.

Prince Rupert

Prince Rupert continues its strong position as an alternate to both Alaskan ports and Victoria. The port anticipates 23 large ship calls including weekly visits by the **Norwegian Star** at Northland Terminal and two calls by mini-cruise ships for a projected 54,000 passengers. 

Agreement for WMG, Thales

Washington Marine Group (WMG) has announced the signing of a Teaming Agreement with Thales Canada forming a strategic alliance to provide the Government of Canada a single solution for the future build and in service support of the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships (AOPS). The AOPS program is worth over \$2 billion dollars, delivering six ice breaking patrol vessels to the Canadian Navy, as part of the Federal Government's National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS). It will provide 700 to 800 skilled jobs to BC shipbuilders and 40 to 60 high technology jobs, in Ontario.

WMG has been a supplier of the Canadian Navy for over 50 years and is currently supplying in-service support for the Canadian submarine fleet, Mid Life extension for Canadian Patrol Frigates, and building Motorized Lifeboats for the Canadian Coast Guard.

Previously, WMG has built ORCA training vessels, Coast Guard Motorized Lifeboats, RCMP Patrol vessels, and buoy tenders and ice breakers for the Canadian Coast Guard.


Thales has more than 50 years experience in delivering equipment, systems and services to naval forces.

"The award of a project of this magnitude would not only revitalize the BC shipbuilding industry, but also provide for significant future investment in facilities, processes and people," said Jonathan Whitworth, WMG CEO. "Thales Canada is an integral member of the team and brings significant expertise in the field of electronic systems."

Thales Canada president and CEO, Paul Kahn, says that his company is very pleased to partner with such a strong and capable shipyard in pursuit of the Navy's AOPS program. The AOPS is one of the initial programs forming part of the \$40 billion Federal Government's NSPS.

Washington Marine Group says its goal is to form a Centre of Excellence to supply programs to meet the needs of the NSPS.

"This agreement with Thales demonstrates our commitment to the NSPS and our pursuit of designation as a shipbuilding Centre of Excellence," said Whitworth.

Further information on the WMG and Thales Canada can be found at www.washingtonmarinegroup.com and www.thalesgroup.com. 

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