

Media Release

Sydney Ports Welcomes Celebrity Cruise Expansion

Wednesday 2 March 2011

Sydney Ports Corporation today welcomed the announcement by Celebrity Cruises of the deployment of its newest luxurious US \$750 million superliner to Sydney.

This morning Celebrity Cruises Australia announced that it would homeport its 122,000 tonne *Celebrity Solstice* at the Overseas Passenger Terminal from the summer of 2012-13.

“Sydney Ports welcomes this great news as another significant vote of confidence in Sydney as Australia’s premier cruise ship destination,” Sydney Ports Chief Executive Officer Grant Gilfillan said today.

“Expected to arrive in December 2012, the 317 metre long, 2850-guest *Celebrity Solstice* will become the largest cruise vessel ever to be based in Sydney and Australia.”

“We remain the only Australian city to operate two dedicated passenger terminals which can support this growing industry.”

According to Gavin Smith managing director, Celebrity Cruises Australia, the move signals the great strength of the Australasian cruise market.

“*Celebrity Solstice* will turn Australian cruising on its head, offering an unparalleled cruising experience for Australian cruisers and introducing a modern style of cruising that they would usually have had to travel overseas to experience,” he said.

Mr Gilfillan said today’s announcement comes as Sydney continues to celebrate a record cruise season of 150 cruise visits and a day after the maiden arrival of the new *Silver Spirit*.

“These visits highlight the spectacular growth of Sydney as a cruise destination in recent years,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“And after a February in which Sydney hosted 27 cruise ship visits in 28 days, we are now enjoying a record March where Sydney Ports is hosting 19 cruise visits - up from just 12 cruise visits two years ago.

“By the time Sydney’s record cruise season concludes, there will have been 150 cruise visits and 300,000 passengers into Sydney.

“Sydney has always been a desirable destination on the world cruise map, but as the international and local cruise industry continues to boom so too does the city’s popularity.”

Sydney Ports will continue to work with stakeholders to provide the appropriate level of services and infrastructure to support the growing cruise passenger industry in Sydney and the broader state economy.