

## TEKNICRAFT DESIGNS NEW PILOT BOAT FOR PORTS OF AUCKLAND

Teknicraft has been commissioned by the Ports of Auckland for the design of a new pilot boat to replace the ageing 'Waitemata' which has been in service since the late nineties. Following extensive research, the port came to the conclusion that a hydrofoil-supported catamaran will better serve their pilot boat operation, compared to any other design in service.

Having seen the catamaran passenger ferries operating all around them, the port appreciated the advantages in terms of seakeeping and stability, but it was only when Teknicraft used one of their existing vessels to demonstrate the handling characteristics of a catamaran when going alongside a ship, that they were totally convinced of the design for pilot boarding operations.



The 15-metre catamaran, which is under construction at Q-West Boatbuilders, features Teknicraft's low resistance, asymmetrical hull. It will be fitted with their adjustable hydrofoil system to ensure excellent fuel economy and ride comfort for the pilots.

It will be powered by a pair of 478kW Scania, 13-litre engines, driving Hamilton waterjets. The cruising speed of 28-30 knots will be achieved using only 65 per cent rating of the engine allowing continuous cruise without stressing the engines. It will also enable the vessel to speed up to 40 knots when necessary to meet a ship on time. ✂