**Specification**

**M.V Snowdrop Passenger Space Restoration**

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## Introduction

Mersey Ferries invites tenders for the heritage restoration to passenger spaces of one of its existing fleet, the MV Snowdrop. This project offers a unique opportunity to significantly improve the interior of the ship, creating a heritage-inspired space that enhances the customer experience while complementing the vessel's iconic exterior. The successful tenderer will collaborate closely with the Mersey Ferries team to create a ship interior that reflects the brand's heritage and vision for the future. This tender process will determine the design partner who will lead this transformative project.

## Background Information

**History of MV Snowdrop**

The MV Snowdrop, originally named MV Woodchurch, was built in 1959 by Messrs. Philip & Son Ltd of Dartmouth. It is a sister ship to the MV Royal Iris, previously known as MV Mountwood. The Snowdrop has served as a vital component of Liverpool's maritime history, gaining significant attention in January 2015 when it was transformed into a "dazzle ship." The unique livery, designed by Sir Peter Blake, commemorates the role of dazzle ships during World War I, making the Snowdrop not just a functional vessel, but also a floating piece of art and history.

**Purpose of the Project**

Mersey Ferries is committed to preserving the MV Snowdrop as a symbol of Liverpool's rich maritime heritage. This project focuses on the interior enhancement of the ship, creating a heritage-inspired environment that reflects the historical significance of the vessel while providing modern comforts for passengers. The project is intended for the leisure market, as well as its use for commuter services, filming, and private charters. The refurbished MV Snowdrop is expected to launch in 2026, with enhancements taking place during 2025, subject to discussion and confirmation.

## Scope of the works

The scope of works for this tender is divided into four key stages, each designed to ensure the successful completion of the project.

* **Stage 1: Research and Brief Scoping**
* **Stage 2: Initial Concepts**
* **Stage 3: Concept Development**
* **Stage 4: Design and Build**

## Job Specification

**Stage 1: Research and Brief Scoping**

**Objective:**

To conduct thorough research and develop a comprehensive brief that will guide the design process.

**Tasks:**

* Desk Research: Review existing documentation and conduct a workshop with the Mersey Ferries team to define the direction of the project, focusing on what "heritage-inspired" means for Mersey Ferries.
* Workshop Day Trip: Conduct research with the ship's crew, passengers, and Mersey Ferries-related groups (e.g., Friends of Mersey Ferries) during a day trip aboard the MV Snowdrop.
* Benchmark Visits: Visit other heritage ferries, such as MV Cill Airne in Dublin and Windermere Lake Steamers, to gather insights and inspiration.
* Creation of a 'White' Model: Develop a 3D model of the ship's interior to facilitate discussions with Mersey Ferries and fully understand the spatial dynamics.

**Output:**

* A well-defined brief based on the research findings.
* A 3D white model for space planning.
* Recommendations for items that could be retained from the current ship.

**Stage 2: Initial Concepts**

**Objective:**

To develop initial design concepts based on the research and brief developed in Stage 1.

**Tasks:**

* The winning tenderer will create two design options: 'good' and 'elevated,' allowing Mersey Ferries to select their preferred choice.
* Collaborate with a marine consultant to establish budget costs and timelines.

**Output:**

* General Arrangement (GA) plan for each design option.
* Mood and sample boards with suggested specifications.
* 3D visuals and a fly-through of the proposed spaces.

**Stage 3: Concept Development**

**Objective:**

To refine the chosen concept into a final design that meets the project objectives.

**Tasks:**

* Further develop the chosen design concept into a final design, with detailed concept visuals.

**Output:**

* Final design concept and visuals.
* A more accurate budget and timeline for the next phase of the project, which will include detailed design, costings, tender process, outfitting, and potential structural works.

**Stage 4: Design and Build**

**Objective:**

To execute the final design through the procurement and build process.

**Tasks:**

* The scope of this stage will be defined through discussions with marine consultants and fit-out companies.
* The winning tenderer may be required to participate in a design intent, detailed design, and/or design management role.

NB: Stage 4 is to be priced, however MT reserves the right to proceed or not proceed with this part of the process.

**Additional Scope: Wayfinding, Storytelling, and Marketing**

In conjunction with, and as an integral part of the design and build, the winning tenderer will be responsible for the following:

* Wayfinding and Storytelling: Develop a suitable wayfinding package that aligns with the heritage concept and aesthetically connects with the new ship. Create an exhibition design that tells the history of the ferries, including Liverpool's maritime heritage.
* Marketing Stage: Capture behind-the-scenes footage, including photography, videos, and screen recordings of the design process, to support Mersey Ferries' social media strategy.

**Optional Scope: Additional Works**

The winning tenderer may be called upon to quote and carry out additional works separate from the primary scope, based on rates provided in the pricing document.

## Key experience/attributes and skills

The key experience/attributes skills and abilities required for the role are as follows:

* Previous experience in delivering Interior design projects from concept through delivery stage to handover acceptance.
* Previous experience within the hospitality industry incorporating F&B services.
* An understanding of Mersey ferry operations and history.
* Experience in delivering way finding and storytelling techniques.
* Ability to develop and present scheme cost profiles and plans to a range of audiences (including senior management).
* Working at pace to meet deadlines in a team environment.
* CV’s of those posed to be involved in the project

## Contract Management and Review

The appointed contractor will be required to attend weekly update review meetings with the project manager (online or at LCRCA offices) to discuss progress with the project, current workload and performance.

## Social value

Fairness and social justice are at the heart of everything LCRCA does. Decisions about where to invest resources in the city region needs to benefit everyone and that is why we are determined to ensure that the social and environmental impact of any future decisions is considered alongside the more traditional economic measures.

For this reason, we are now including social value as a requirement in the contract provision and in the award criteria. Therefore, in your submission we would like to know what specific social value commitment that will be applicable to this contract. Your Social Value proposal must be measurable as this will form part of contract management.

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Social Value Policy and Framework <https://api.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/LCRCA-Social-Value-Policy-and-Framework-2022.pdf> was published in April 2022.

You are required to provided evidence of how you will contribute through the delivery of this project to the five strategic goals of LCRCA.

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**Conclusion**

This tender process offers a unique opportunity to be part of a project that will enhance the MV Snowdrop, preserving its heritage while ensuring it remains a vital part of Liverpool's maritime future. The successful tenderer will have the chance to contribute to a high-profile project that blends history, art, and functionality, ensuring that the MV Snowdrop continues to serve as a symbol of Liverpool's rich maritime tradition. Mersey Ferries looks forward to receiving proposals that demonstrate creativity, expertise, and a deep understanding of the project's objectives.