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**Ferry design competition: Proposals received from seven maritime universities. Top prize of \$5,000 is to be awarded.**

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Student teams from seven maritime universities have submitted proposals for the design competition for Safe Affordable Ferries sponsored by the Worldwide Ferry Safety Association (WFSA, see below).

A panel of six judges (see below) will review the submissions and will announce the winners by early Fall 2013. The top prize is \$5,000 with second and third prizes also to be awarded.

The student teams were from (by alphabetic order), Istanbul Technical University, Maine Maritime Academy, National Technical University of Athens, Tolani Maritime Institute, India, University of Applied Sciences in Bremen, University of British Columbia, and Webb Institute in New York.

Dr. Roberta Weisbrod, a Board member of WFSA, explained: "The purpose of the design competition is to supplement efforts by affected national governments, Interferry and the International Maritime Organization to reduce ferry fatalities in developing world ferry travel." She added that: "This competition addresses the most intractable cause of ferry fatalities, the quality of the vessel with the goal of eliciting innovative design at the same time promoting the fact that as developing countries become emerging markets their need and ability to pay for innovative affordable safe design increases."

The student teams were asked to submit a design for a 500-passenger ferry for Bangladesh as specified by the Shipping Department for the 250-kilometer route between Dhaka, the capital, south to Barisal (the "Venice of the East") via Chandpur (where three major rivers come together). The river route, where the depth varies between 2.5 m to 3.9 m, is subject to fierce storms.

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**Editors- Background on WFSA:**

The Worldwide Ferry Safety Association (WFSA) is a not-for-profit organization whose board is composed of Stuart Ballantyne, Managing Director of Sea Transport Corporation in Southport, Australia, which owns, operates and constructs commercial vessels; Len Roueche, CEO of Interferry and leader of the organization's Ferry Safety project; and Dr. Roberta Weisbrod, Principal of Sustainable Ports, a maritime transport consultancy, and coordinator for Interferry's Ferry Safety project.

The Safe Ferry Design competition is funded by a grant from the Heimbinder Family Foundation.

**Editors- Background on Judges:**

**Alfred Baird** is Professor of Maritime Business at Edinburgh Napier University's Transport Research Institute. He has conducted research and published on the economic, policy and environmental aspects of ferry transport in the global market place.

**Dr. Charles R. Cushing**, President of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering firm C.R. Cushing & Co., has designed, built and/or supervised the construction of over 250 vessels of all types all over the world. Among his many honors he is an elected member of National Academy of Engineering for

his pioneering contributions to containerization. He is the author of the recently published book, Marine Casualty Safety Investigation.

**Anders Ørgård Hansen** is Managing Director of OSK Consulting Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Denmark and an active member of Interferry. He engaged with the Bangladesh ferry sector working group as part of Interferry's Ferry Safety project.

**Joe Hudspeth** is Vice President of Business Development at All American Marine in Bellingham, Washington. He writes the Boat Building column for Marine News and is a frequently invited speaker because of his insight into marine issues.

**Fakhrul Islam** is Chief Engineer and Ship Surveyor of the Department of Shipping, Dhaka, Bangladesh and drafted the specifications for the vessel toward which students designed their submissions.

**Thalia Kruger** works for American Bureau of Shipping, in Houston Texas, recently promoted to Manager Energy Project Development, has worked as Principal Engineer/Project Manager managing complex offshore energy projects. As a Marine Engineer/Naval Architect she has been responsible for construction of numerous energy related marine structures and vessels. Chair of the Texas section of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME), Ms. Kruger has actively promoted student engagement in SNAME including design competitions, particularly in the western hemisphere.

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**For further information:**

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