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## **BC Ferries acquires ferry from Utah**

BC Ferries has bought a ferry from the State of Utah for US\$200,000 to use as a relief vessel on minor routes. The successful bidder in a competitive bidding process, BC Ferries will acquire the 20-year-old *MV John Atlantic Burr* this fall.

The *MV John Atlantic Burr* is a sister ship to BC Ferries' three K-class ships, the *MV Kahloke*, *MV Klitsa* and *MV Kwuna*. Previously operated on Lake Powell by the State of Utah Transportation Department, the ferry was designed by Marine Design Associates (MDA) of Victoria in 1985. The vessel was substantially upgraded, with its hull and superstructure lengthened in 1996.

The ferry was extensively surveyed by BC Ferries' engineers

prior to the formal bid and was deemed in excellent condition. The vessel will be modified this winter to meet BC Ferries and Transport Canada requirements and should be available for service by summer 2006.

The ship will be cut longitudinally for its transport to BC. BC Ferries may widen the vessel and add another lane to increase the vessel's carrying capacity from 26 to 35 cars. The vessel will require an investment of approximately \$4.5 million to transport to the west coast and to convert to BC Ferries' standards. (A new vessel of comparable size costs approximately \$20 million to construct.)

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