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### **Nomadic teams up with Harland & Wolff again...100 years on**

The 100 year link between the SS Nomadic and Harland & Wolff is about to be rekindled. The shipyard made famous for building the Titanic has just been awarded, under the EU's PEACE III Programme, a £2m contract by the Department for Social Development (DSD) who own the vessel, to carry out restoration work on the Nomadic's superstructure and steelwork almost 100 years after constructing her.

Work will start on the project immediately and is scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

Social Development Minister Alex Attwood said: "The award of this £2million contract will help restore and revamp Nomadic's 100 year old superstructure and steelwork, getting it ready for Titanic's 2012 celebrations. It will also provide over 25 jobs and I anticipate over 3 new posts will be created.

"The Nomadic played an important role in the Titanic story. We are looking forward to the next chapter which will see her take up a role as a key attraction at the heart of the centenary festivities. This is another great milestone in the ongoing refurbishment of Titanic's little sister."

Denis Rooney, Chairman of the Nomadic Charitable Trust said: "The superstructure and steelwork contract will ensure that the vessel will be ready to accommodate the key fit out stage of the restoration programme, which will commence immediately after this contract is complete. Between now and then we do have another very important milestone of our own with the Nomadic celebrating her centenary in May of this year. We have agreed with the contractor to schedule work to accommodate a number of stakeholder 'hard hat' tours to mark this important milestone. NCT is still looking for financial help to restore the Nomadic and give this magnificent piece of maritime heritage its rightful place in Irish History."

The £2m contract has been awarded under the Peace III Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), with additional funding from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and will primarily cover work associated with the re-establishment and the erection of the bridge deck and the flying bridge deck.

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Howard Keery, Director at the Special EU Programmes Body, said: "This is an extremely worthwhile project which will contribute to the regeneration of a historical part of the city. The award of this contract to Harland & Wolff also confirms that the engineering and manufacturing industry in the region remains strong and competitive. I am delighted that under the PEACE III Programme we are able to contribute to the restoration of the SS Nomadic and promote the recognition of a shared history and heritage."

SS Nomadic will feature prominently in Belfast's Titanic 2012 celebrations and as Alan Clarke, Chief Executive of NITB outlines, she will help maintain a vital link to the city's history, he said: "The story of the SS Nomadic, of the titanic quarter and of Northern Ireland's wider maritime heritage is a very important part of our history and culture. A story that is of great interest to our visitors and, therefore, of great value to Northern Ireland in attracting tourists and in positioning our country as a must-see destination. The restoration of the SS Nomadic will help to re-establish this link to our maritime industrial past and I am delighted that NITB is supporting this very important project through our Tourism Development Scheme funding of £750,000."

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#### **Notes to editors:**

1. The superstructure contract is a key phase in Nomadic's ongoing restoration programme which will see the vessel restored to play a key role in helping Belfast and Northern Ireland celebrate Titanic's 2012 centenary. NCT is still looking for financial help to restore Nomadic and there are numerous ways to get involved in the appeal via the website [www.nomadicbelfast.com](http://www.nomadicbelfast.com)
2. The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Finance in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU structural funds Programmes PEACE III and INTERREG IVA designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society. The programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG IVA, Western Scotland.

The PEACE III Programme, funded through the European Regional Development Fund, is worth €333 million and is aimed primarily at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. It focuses on helping Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland to reconcile communities and contribute towards a shared society.

For more information on the SEUPB please visit [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)

- 3. News Media enquiries to** DSD Information Office on 028 9082 9078. Out of office please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07699715440 and your call will be returned.

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