

MEDIA RELEASE

SEEDA seeks Developer for new 400 berth

Cowes Marina and Breakwater

24 November 2009

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) has launched its search for a partner to design, build, finance and operate a new marina at East Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

The marina, being developed in partnership with Cowes Harbour Commissioners, and The Crown Estate is an integral part of the wider East Cowes Regeneration Project and Cowes Waterfront Initiative.

Expressions of interest are being sought from marina operators capable of delivering the c.400 berth marina, the construction of a permanent breakwater for Cowes Harbour, extending the 'Shrape Breakwater' and dredging a new Eastern Channel. The breakwaters and the Eastern Channel will subsequently be adopted by Cowes Harbour Commissioners.

David Holifield, SEEDA's Senior Project Manager said: "The Outer Harbour Project will deliver a unique opportunity for a new marina in one of Europe's most prestigious yachting locations. The marina is a key part of SEEDA's regeneration objectives for this area, and the partners are committed to this development as part of the ongoing investment in this part of the Isle of Wight."

Neil Jacobson, Head of Coastal Operations at The Crown Estate added: "We are pleased to be working with SEEDA to offer this exciting project to the market. The Crown Estate endorses the approach being undertaken to bring forward this holistic solution for Cowes Outer Harbour and acknowledges the part that a new marina can play in the regeneration of East Cowes."

An outline planning application including an Environmental Impact Assessment has been submitted to the Isle of Wight Council and is expected to be determined early in 2010. The selected operator will be offered a 125 year lease of the marina and, subject to planning, construction is expected to start in Autumn 2010.

Expressions of interest from organisations interested in being considered for this unique opportunity should contact David Holifield at SEEDA for a questionnaire. Davidholifield@seeda.co.uk The deadline for receipt of completed questionnaires is 15th January 2010.

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Notes to Editors

- **SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency**, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region.
- **SEEDA's support helped deliver the following** over the period 2005-2008:
 - o 17,500 jobs created or safeguarded
 - o 32,500 people helped to get work
 - o 10,000 businesses created or attracted to region
 - o 137,500 businesses assisted
 - o £638m investment, 45% levered from private sector
 - o 200ha Brownfield land remediated
 - o 148,500 people assisted in skills development
- **For media enquiries**, please contact:
Scott Swinton, Media Relations Manager, SEEDA,
Tel: 01483 501362, Mob: 07737 271676
Email scottswinton@seeda.co.uk