

**G**LASGOW is set to become home to the world's first floating leisure village.

In a decision announced by Scottish Enterprise and after a tightly fought tendering process, Floating Concepts Ltd, based near Manchester, has been chosen as the preferred bidder to develop the former canting basin docks a mile from Glasgow city centre on the south side of the River Clyde.

The £30 million pioneering proposals, designed by Glasgow based ZM Architecture and specialist water based architects Baca Ltd of London, could create up to 450 local jobs and transform the canting basin into a spectacular floating community comprising shops, offices, houses, restaurants, a marina and a rooftop concert arena.

'All great coastal cities have a prime waterfront destination and now Glasgow has the chance to join those ranks,' said David Beard, chief executive of Floating Concepts.

'The iconic nature of a floating village will turn the canting basin into a major attraction quite unlike any other in the world, as well as being a dynamic centre for local people and businesses.'

Allan McQuade, business infrastructure director at Scottish Enterprise, said; 'The proposed floating leisure village has the potential to become a vibrant waterfront tourism and leisure destination at the heart of Glasgow's Pacific Quay. It is an innovative proposal which makes maximum use of the water.'

'Scottish Enterprises' vision for the canting basin is a break-through in recognising the potential of 'blue-field' sites,' said David Beard, who is also co-owner of Liverpool Marina. 'Floating structures can be applied successfully

# A Floating 'First' Fo

to many areas, including those at risk of flooding or subject to major tidal ranges as we are here on the River Clyde.'

The canting basin covers five hectares of water which borders the Science Centre and IMAX cinema at Glasgow's Pacific Quay.

Floating Concepts plans include using cutting-edge design and the latest sustainable technology to create a U-shaped floating roadway, comprising a flexible mix of two and three storey glazed office buildings, studio flats and town houses with their own private moorings.

The plans for a green, car free environment, which could have its recycled refuse collected by barge, will accommodate shops, a hotel, restaurants and an 80 berth marina with a unique yacht club concept which would be open to the public. There are also plans for a further 150 berths for the residents and occupiers of the development and for visitors by boat.

To encourage the use of the river for transport and recreational use, the offices and residential units will be marketed with a range of 'pool' boats which residents will be able to book on line.

Building could start in the second quarter of 2012 and it is expected to take around three years to complete and will be built in up to three phases.

It is a key development project under the wider Clyde Waterfront project which has invested more than £2 billion to date to transform the Clyde into a river of opportunity for investors, businesses and communities alike. [www.clydewaterfront.co.uk](http://www.clydewaterfront.co.uk)



# Glasgow



## Tall Ships On Course For Record Numbers

**A**S PREPARATIONS for the Greenock leg of the 2011 Tall Ships Races in July continue, Sail Inverclyde, who are arranging the shore based festivities, announce that more than 30 ships from around the world have confirmed their attendance.

The Wylde Swan from the Netherlands and the Tomidi from Belgium are just two of the massively impressive ships cruising into the James Watt Dock Marina following the first leg of the race in Waterford, Ireland.

Other countries that will be sending representatives include Russia and South America. Many of the ships already registered also participated when the tall ships fleet last came to the Clyde in 1999.

The Pogoria from Poland is one ship revisiting Greenock. Standing at 33m high, with a length of 41m, the ship will have a crew of 52 including 11 officers and 41 trainees.

In July, almost one million visitors are expected to gather on the shores of Greenock across the four day festival on water. The Tall Ships Races series costs around €15 million to stage and attracts five million visitors to the various ports hosting the annual race series.

The only bigger event in the world in terms of visitor figures is the Japanese

Cherry Blossom festival.

As well as the attraction of the ships, the Tall Ships Races, which is organised annually by Sail Training International, involves 100,000 trainees, making it both the biggest youth and biggest sailing event.

The Greenock display will be supported by more than 500 volunteers.

### WORLD'S LARGEST

Councillor David Wilson, chairman of Sail Inverclyde, commented: 'To have more than 30 ships signed up already is a great accomplishment. Two of these are among the largest ships in the world, and we have one coming all the way from Brazil.'

'We are getting more and more confirmations every week from ships wanting to take part so I am confident that we will double this amount by the time July comes around.'

The Tall Ships bonanza will take place at the James Watt Dock Marina in Greenock, which is currently being redeveloped by James Watt Dock LLP, a partnership between Clydeport and Riverside Inverclyde, the urban regeneration company currently progressing developments on seven sites along Inverclyde's waterfront.



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