

World's largest civilian hospital ship nears delivery – complex industrial project for surgical care

Swedish Stena RoRo are experts in building tailored vessels for special needs. The *Global Mercy* – the world's largest civilian hospital ship – has been a very special project for Stena RoRo, and after several years of design and construction the ship is now soon to be ready and leave the Tianjin Xingang shipyard in northern China. Mercy Ships, the international charity that ordered the vessel, expects it to enter service by the end of 2021, after transport to Africa.

Tailored for unique use

Stena RoRo has been responsible for the design, the contracting and the construction oversight of the complex vessel. In addition to the Chinese shipyard the project includes several European, American and Asian subcontractors.

“We have applied one of our concepts on a ship from the RoPax-class, which are passenger and freighter vessels for international voyages, and modified her into a pure passenger ship with hospital capabilities,” says Per Westling, CEO of Stena RoRo AB. “Instead of a car deck, we’ve built operating rooms and hospital wards. The ship will have space for about 950 persons with everything needed for both patients and those who work on board, including grade schools and nursery schools for the children of staff.”



Hospital operations place large and specific requirements, which have affected both the hull design and the layout of the interior. In addition, the ventilation system has been especially adapted and focus has been placed on minimizing vibration and noise. The ship is equipped with large cranes in order to be able to take on containers with provisions, vehicles and other equipment as the ship is to be used for long periods in port.

Vital care to the world's poorest

Mercy Ships has been providing medical care on ships for more than 40 years. With cooperative agreements by the governments of the beneficiary countries, Mercy Ships hospital ships are in a port in each country for about ten months. Since 2007, the *Africa Mercy*, a converted train ferry, has made it possible to deliver free medical and dental care to the world's poorest. It is often a case of basic but completely life-changing surgical procedures. The *Global Mercy* is the organization's first newly built hospital ship and will more than double the capacity of Mercy Ships to deliver aid.

Mercy Ships is also contributing to the sustainable construction of the local infrastructure for medical care by training local health professionals. This is why the *Global Mercy* is equipped with first-class training facilities, including equipment for virtual reality training and other simulations of care and methods for use in environments with limited resources.

“It feels very satisfying to be able to contribute with our expertise in this project, which will make such a big and important difference to so many people in the poorest parts of the world. Mercy Ships is doing a fantastic job,” says Per Westling, who visited the current hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy* when she was stationed in Madagascar in 2017.

After completion of the ship in the first quarter of 2021, followed by an equipping phase in the Philippines, Mercy Ships expects the *Global Mercy* to arrive at a port in Africa for its first mission in the latter part of 2021. Several hundred volunteers from all over the world will be involved, who make it all possible through the donation of their time and skills.

About the *Global Mercy*

Length: 174 meters

Breadth: 28.6 meters

Draught: 6.15 meters

Gross weight: 37,000 tonnes

Deadweight: 4,500 tonnes

Total area: 30,000 square meters

Photos:

1. *Global Mercy*, exterior
2. *Global Mercy*, interior (operating room) rendering

Time lapse: <https://youtu.be/S2L5J7MaOZc>

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Since 1977, **Stena RoRo** has led the development of new RoRo and RoRo-passenger concepts (RoPax). We specialize in custom-built vessels, as well as standardized RoRo and RoPax ships. The company leases about fifteen vessels to operators worldwide, both to other Stena companies and third parties. Stena RoRo specializes above all in applying its technical expertise to the design and production of new ships and the conversion of existing ships for delivering tailored transport solutions to its customers. We call this “Stenability”. Since 2013, we have been responsible for the design and construction of Mercy Ships’ new hospital vessel the *Global Mercy* – the world’s largest civilian hospital ship.

www.stenaroro.com

About Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to deliver free, world-class healthcare services, capacity building, and sustainable development to those with little access in the developing world. Founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 55 developing countries, providing services valued at more than \$1.7 billion and directly benefitting more than 2.8 million people. Our ships are crewed by volunteers from over 50 nations, with an average of over 2000 volunteers each year. Professionals including surgeons, dentists, nurses, healthcare trainers, teachers, cooks, seamen, engineers, and agriculturalists donate their time and skills. With 16 national offices and an Africa Bureau, Mercy Ships seeks to transform individuals and serve nations. For more information click on www.mercyships.org