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Contact: Mickey Richardson, CEO, Port of Tomorrow, (479)-268-1525

## **The Seward Company to Construct State-of-the-Art Passenger Terminal and Largest Floating Cruise Dock in Seward, Alaska**

**Seward, Alaska** – February 13, 2024 – The Seward Company, an Alaska-based real estate development group, released plans today for the design and construction of a world-class passenger terminal and the state’s largest floating cruise dock at the Port of Seward, Alaska. This public-private project will replace the existing pier and completely modernize the cruise infrastructure of the Alaska Railroad's cruise port facility, ushering in a new era of cruise passenger hospitality excellence and economic growth for Seward, Southcentral, and other communities served by the Railbelt.

The centerpiece of the project is a state-of-the-art, floating, double berth dock, measuring 100 feet wide and 748 feet long, equipped with a 140-foot-long split transfer span to ensure the safe and efficient embarkation and disembarkation of cruise passengers and provisioning vehicles. Additionally, the 41,500-square-foot cruise terminal will provide a welcoming indoor shelter for travelers embarking or disembarking on their ship. According to the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, the number of cruise passengers that cross the Gulf of Alaska is expected to grow by 12% to 463,000 this season as the cruise industry makes a full recovery from the pandemic. Refreshing the Port of Seward helps stabilize Alaska’s tourism growth by spreading visitors more widely throughout the state.

The Seward Company was formed to revive, revamp, and reimagine the Seward port waterfront project. The developer contracted Turnagain, an Anchorage-based firm to design, engineer, and construct the new dock and terminal. To purchase the project, Alaska Railroad Corporation bonds will be secured by a long-term use agreement with anchor cruise line Royal Caribbean Group. Under the purchase agreement, Royal Caribbean Group, including Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, and Silversea Cruises will be given preferential docking rights and is committing increased passenger loads of up to 140,000 beginning in 2026.

“Built in 1965, the current dock has supported Seward and the railroad for many years. Now, it must be replaced. The Seward Company brings together the experience of veteran marine construction and developer Turnagain, with two of Alaska’s leading tourism entities: the Alaska Railroad and Royal Caribbean,” said Chris Hladick, Project Manager, The Seward Company. “Together, this new dock and terminal facility will enhance the cruise passenger safety and experience, bringing much-needed infrastructure improvements benefiting all of Alaska’s tourism industry.”

Key benefits of the project include:

- **Infrastructure revitalization:** The new floating dock and passenger terminal will replace the existing infrastructure of the Alaska Railroad's Cruise Port facility, bringing operations up to new industry standards and facilitating more efficient ship handling and passenger transfers.

- **Enhanced tourism potential:** With improved dock facilities and increased cruise terminal capacity, Seward will become a premier port of call for Quantum-class cruise ships, thereby unlocking new opportunities for growth and development in Alaska's thriving visitor industry.
- **Increased emergency readiness:** The larger marine terminal will enhance Alaska's readiness for emergency situations by providing year-round capacity for larger marine vessels, ensuring the safety and security of residents.

“The visitor industry is the second largest private-sector employer, accounting for one in every ten Alaska jobs (52,000) with an economic impact of \$5.6 billion,” said Dale Wade, Vice President Marketing & Customer Service, Alaska Railroad. “This new floating dock and cruise passenger terminal in Seward is a key investment in infrastructure for the future of the Railroad. It expands opportunities for tourism development throughout Southcentral, across the state and to all the smaller communities the Railroad already serves.”

“The Seward Company, along with its partners, is committed to working closely with local community stakeholders, government agencies, and tourism industry partners to ensure the successful completion of this vital waterfront project,” said Hladic. “The design process is well on its way and construction is scheduled to start in 2025 with a grand opening for the 2026 cruise season.”

For more information about The Seward Company, its partners, or the project, please visit [www.SewardCompany.com](http://www.SewardCompany.com).

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