**RECORD NUMBERS THROUGH PORTLAND PORT SECOND YEAR RUNNING**

On the 6th August 2681 passengers disembarked the AIDAstella; breaking last years record number of passengers to disembark for the day at Portland Port. This is another milestone for Portland, a port that is continuing to develop their cruise offering in the South West using growing support from Weymouth and Portland to help them market the destination to cruise lines world wide.

As thousands of German passengers disembarked the AIDAstella they were greeted by Stuart Cave the Portland Town Crier, a crew of interpreters acting as tourism representatives for Weymouth and Portland and a fleet of shuttle busses to take them to Weymouth and Portland free of charge. Ian McQuade, General Manager – Business Development, was available to comment on the ports continuing growth in the cruise industry; “This is another impressive milestone for the port. It is incredible to see just how far the port has come over the last 5 years.”

Wednesdays visit saw the final call of old friend the AIDAstella, she has visited Portland 8 times over the last 2 years bring over 17000 passengers with her in that time. The port wishes her the best of luck in her future travels and we hope to see her again soon. Bettina Collins was on the quayside directing the German passengers throughout the AIDAstellas final call; “A huge number of people are so relieved to have German speakers there because especially older passengers do not speak English. I also think they really like Weymouth, it, just the right size for a stroll, they love the harbour area, the esplanade and the beach.“

Whilst this is the final chapter for AIDAstella, at least for the time being, AIDA cruises will be back again in 2015, Portland Ports continued growth in the cruise industry will not be coming to an end anytime soon. The new cruise extension to be completed by summer 2016 will allow the port to welcome some of the biggest cruise ships in the world.

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**For more information or images please contact Jack Brooke at Portland Port on 01305 825368 or email** **j.brooke@portland-port.co.uk**

PHOTO:

*Photo –Stuart Cave, Portland Town Crier*

*Photo – AIDAstella alongside in Portland Port, 6th August 2014*

Notes to Editors:

Previously a naval dockyard for over 150 years, Portland Harbour is now a thriving and successful commercial facility. It still maintains a close relationship with the past through its ongoing contract to support the RFA, as well as being home to the activities of Global Marine and Portland Bunkers International. It has almost 2,500 hectares of water at depths of up to 15m (C.D.); and provides vessel services from long term lay-ups to brief maintenance calls, luxury cruise liner docking facilities to industrial cargo shipments.

The cruise schedule for 2014 can be seen and downloaded here:

<http://www.portland-port.co.uk/cruise/cruise-calls>

The tariff and general Portland Harbour Authority information can be viewed at <http://www.portland-port.co.uk/>

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Portland Port has over 2,000 metres of alongside berths and 11.6 metres (C.D.) depth of water at the deepest alongside berth.

Berthing for vessels up to 300 metres (subject to Harbour Master's approval).

11 designated anchorages are within the 1,015 hectare inner harbour. Six designated anchorages are within the 1,436 hectare Outer Harbour.

A width of 210 metres and depth of over 12.6 metres (C.D.) at the entrance of the harbour mean that there are few vessel beam, lock, or air draft restriction.

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