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NEW CHAPTER IN BELFAST'S SHIPBUILDING HERITAGE AS SS NOMADIC AND TITANIC ARE REUNITED

A new chapter in Belfast's shipbuilding heritage begins this week as the Nomadic Charitable Trust officially transfer SS Nomadic to Titanic Foundation Limited, the charity that also own the Titanic Belfast visitor attraction. SS Nomadic will be operated by Titanic Belfast Limited, Titanic Belfast's commercial operator, who will align their 5 star visitor attraction experience to Titanic's little sister.

The SS Nomadic is not only the last remaining White Star Line ship anywhere in the world, it's also the biggest Titanic artefact and an authentic piece of Belfast's maritime heritage. In 2005 Nomadic was languishing in Le Havre when local enthusiasts became aware of its plight, and began a campaign to 'Save the Nomadic' from scrappage. The Department for Social Development stepped in and bought Nomadic in 2006, bringing it home later that year. The Nomadic Charitable Trust was set up to oversee its restoration and conservation, and the ship opened to the public in 2013.

Denis Rooney CBE, Chairman of the Board commented, *"Nomadic Charitable Trust has worked hard to bring SS Nomadic to this point but we feel it is time to integrate SS Nomadic into the wider Titanic Quarter offer. We have been working with Titanic Foundation Limited over several months to ensure a seamless transition and we are delighted that the transfer is now complete and look forward to seeing SS Nomadic flourish"*

Titanic Foundation has taken on ownership of the SS Nomadic, as part of their remit to protect and promote the maritime and industrial heritage of Belfast. In collaboration with Titanic Belfast Limited, it was recognised that there would be significant benefits in joining up the operations of both Titanic Belfast and the SS Nomadic advancing the development and promotion of Titanic Quarter as an international maritime heritage destination.

Kerrie Sweeney, Titanic Foundation Limited's CEO, highlighted: *"The Nomadic Charitable Trust have done a fantastic job reinstating SS Nomadic to its majestic glory and we are delighted to be part of this new chapter of Nomadic's history. At a time when many heritage organisations are suffering from funding cuts, we believe this strategic move will not only enhance the Titanic Quarter visitor experience but achieve greater sustainability for SS Nomadic for many years to come"*

Tim Husbands MBE, Titanic Belfast's CEO, added: *"We are very proud to be associated with the SS Nomadic, a unique part of Belfast's rich maritime heritage which provides such a tangible reference for the Titanic story. Combining SS Nomadic with the Titanic Belfast underpins the authentic experience we offer our visitors and further reinforces Belfast's international positioning as Titanic's birthplace"*

SS Nomadic and Titanic Belfast are open to the public with a full programme of family events over the Easter Holiday period.

– ENDS –

MEDIA ENQUIRES

For more information contact Maeve Curran, Titanic Foundation Limited.

Notes to Editors

About SS Nomadic

SS Nomadic was designed and built by Harland and Wolff in 1910-11 and has many of the same luxurious finishes as RMS Titanic, and is a quarter of the size.

The ship has been restored to her original 1911 glory and is located in the Hamilton Dry Dock. Stretched over four decks, the Nomadic experience provides a first-hand experience of what it was like to be a passenger boarding Titanic on her fateful maiden voyage, to marvel at the intricate details and the contrasts between the separated class areas on board. In addition to the authentic grandeur, the Nomadic story is told through a wide variety of interactive, hands on, technical and traditional story telling methods that appeal to a wide range of audiences.

The £multi million restoration of SS Nomadic and the Thompson Dock was led by the Nomadic Charitable Trust and funded by Department of Social Development, Heritage Lottery Fund, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Special European Programmes Body, Belfast City Council and Ulster Garden Villages. Restoration began in 2006 and completed in 2013, when SS Nomadic was opened to the public.

About Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast is an iconic six-floor building featuring nine interpretive and interactive galleries that explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Titanic, as well as the City and people which made her. It is the World's Largest Titanic exhibition.

The building houses temporary exhibits, a banqueting suite, education and community facilities, catering and retail space, and a basement car park. Visitors learn about the construction of RMS Titanic and the wide and rich story of Northern Ireland's industrial and maritime heritage.

Supported by the Northern Ireland Executive, Titanic Belfast is a unique public/private partnership funded by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour and Titanic Quarter Ltd. It is operated by Titanic Belfast Ltd and owned by the Titanic Foundation Ltd.

About Titanic Foundation Limited

Titanic Foundation Limited (TFL) is a registered charity, set up to educate the world on Belfast's industrial and maritime heritage, past, present and future.

Titanic Foundation's ambition is to create a dynamic maritime destination where preservation of heritage complements regeneration and where public realm, events and amenities attract, engage and connects everyone in Belfast to Titanic's narrative - human endeavour, pride, inspiration and innovation. To date TFL has delivered Titanic Belfast and is currently progressing the restoration of the former Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices and Headquarters Building as a heritage centre and boutique hotel.

About Nomadic Charitable Trust

Nomadic Charitable Trust, is a registered charity, was established in 2006 to restore the SS Nomadic and to make her accessible to the public, to ensure she can play a key role in the on-going celebration of the Titanic, ensure a lasting legacy to celebrate our maritime and industrial heritage.