



For immediate release

Press Release

**PREMIER TECH PARTNERS WITH CROISIÈRES AML
TO TREAT WASTEWATER FROM SHIPS**

Rivière-du-Loup, October 31, 2008 – Through its business unit Premier Tech Environment (PTE), an international leader in the development of wastewater treatment technologies, Premier Tech is pleased to announce that it will partner with Croisières AML in an innovative project for treating wastewater from ships.

In May 2007, the Government of Canada issued new *Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals*. Under these regulations, ships must now comply with much stricter discharge standards.

Croisières AML, a leader in providing excursion cruises, investigated possible treatment solutions. The solution that the company wanted had to be adapted to the ships' physical constraints on the one hand, and meet the performance criteria imposed by the new regulations on the other hand. As it was not satisfied with existing products available in the market, Croisières AML entered into a partnership agreement with PTE for designing an adapted and high performance membrane system. In July they launched a pilot project on board the Cavalier Maxim, one of the Group's ships, docked at the Port of Montreal.

Traditionally, the team at AML has always been looking for original, convenient, and high performance solutions to the operational problems that it faced. Wastewater treatment on board the company's float is another challenge that calls for the team's problem-solving abilities. This desire for achieving continuous improvement with the help of the best human and technical resources will be fully satisfied in AML's partnership with the Premier Tech team and NAVTECH, a consulting company in naval architecture based in Quebec City.

The solution to be developed

The membrane system is a very compact solution that allows reducing the tanks' size. This is a major benefit, weight being the main obstacle in designing naval equipment.



Premier Tech

The solution is composed of a biological treatment process that uses the activated sludge principle. The process is combined with water filtration, achieved with a submerged ultrafiltration membrane device. As a comparison, the membrane apertures are 1 500 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

With treatment performances that far exceed the new discharge standards, the new system will allow the Cavalier Maxim to sail without carrying excess weight, both in freshwater and on the high seas. The treatment quality achieved with the membrane technology will allow wastewater from the ship to be reused in activities other than human consumption (e.g., washrooms, irrigation, etc.).

“Carrying out such a project is part of one of the aspects of PTE’s vision, which is to ensure a constant flow of innovative ideas in order to design the most adapted, ecological, and effective wastewater treatment solutions for various applications,” says PTE President Mr. Henri Ouellet.

About PTE

Founded in 1923 and employing over 1 600 team members around the world, Premier Tech has been building its know-how and reputation by making the most of its business units’ technological competencies and team diversity. It is in this context that PTE has become an international leader in decentralized wastewater treatment.

For more than 20 years, PTE has focused its technological and commercial expertise in the market of decentralized wastewater treatment for home owners, companies, communities, and industries. With over 40 000 installations, each one complete with a rigorous inspection, maintenance, and follow-up program carried out by its network of partners, PTE is without a doubt the industry’s leading company. Present in Europe, North America, and Asia, PTE takes pride in the proven quality, performance, and reliability of its products.

About Croisières AML

Croisières AML is a family business that has been in operation in Quebec for over 35 years. It is the biggest cruise excursion company in Canada, with 18 ships harbored in 9 ports across Quebec. Moreover, the company provides jobs to a team of 650 people serving more than 500 000 passengers every year.

Croisières AML offers dinner cruises, brunches, guided tours, special event packages, as well as custom packages. These products are available on board the Cavalier Maxim in Montreal and the Louis Jolliet in Quebec City, two ships that can accommodate between 800 and 1 000 passengers. Through its subsidiary Navettes Maritimes du Saint-Laurent inc., Croisières AML



Premier Tech

also provides a ferry service between the Old Port of Montreal, Parc Jean-Drapeau, and the city of Longueuil.

Whale-watching cruises are also available on board the Cavalier des Mers departing from Rivière-du-Loup, and on board the Grand Fleuve, the Cavalier Royal, and zodiacs leaving from Tadoussac and Baie-Sainte-Catherine. In addition, AML offers a Grand Cruise on the Saguenay Fjord departing from Tadoussac, Baie-Sainte-Catherine, and L'Anse-Saint-Jean, with a stopover in Baie-Éternité.

– 30 –

Sources: Amélie Dionne
Premier Tech Environment
Tel.: 418 867-8883, extension 6556

Mylène Trudeau
Croisières AML
Tel.: 418 692-2634, extension 227