

Hamilton Jet Model HM571
Application Review

HM571 Waterjets Help Improve Golden Gate Ferry Service



The Hamilton Jet powered 'Mendocino' is the second of three new high-speed passenger ferries built by Nichols Brothers Boat Builders to operate in California. Like many modern ferries, it uses quadruple waterjets to provide fast and reliable operation, and is designed with quality of customer service in mind.

Hamilton Waterjets were chosen for both the Mendocino and the earlier 'Jet Cat Express' (Jet Brief No. 340) because of their many advantages in high-speed, high-usage applications. The jets require less maintenance than other forms of propulsion, which means less down-time and reduced maintenance costs. They also produce less noise and vibration which, along with increased manoeuvrability, gives an overall faster and more comfortable ride for the 450 passengers.

Mendocino features special windows which provide unobstructed passenger views. Seats are arranged to get the best of these views and to increase passenger

privacy. For convenience there is space provided behind the pilot house for up to 15 bicycles. The bicycle stands were considered an important addition, particularly as cycling becomes a more popular form of transport with both city workers and tourists. Unloading Mendocino only takes about five minutes, which reduces turnaround times significantly.

Mendocino has joined four other smaller passenger ferries owned and operated by Golden Gate Ferry, a division of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District. Its route will run between Larkspur and San Francisco with a crossing time of 30 minutes.



▶ Brief Specifications

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| NAME: Mendocino | ENGINES: Quad Cummins diesels Model KTA50-M2, each 1193kW (1600hp) @ 1800rpm |
| SERVICE: Fast Passenger Ferry | GEARBOXES: ZF Model BU460D 1.353:1 |
| LENGTH: 42.90 metres [LOA] | DESIGNER: International Catamaran Designs, Sydney, Australia |
| BEAM: 10.40 metres | BUILDER: Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, Whidbey Island, WA, USA |
| CONSTRUCTION: Aluminium | OWNER/OPERATOR: Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District, San Francisco, CA, USA |
| PAYLOAD: 450 passengers 15 bicycles | Hamilton Jet DISTRIBUTOR: Hamilton Jet Inc, Seattle, WA, USA |
| SPEED: 36 knots [operational] | |
| WATERJETS: Quad Hamilton Model HM571 | |
| WATERJET CONTROLS: Hamilton MECS Electronic | |

