



Concarneau, 20 July 2026

**PIRIOU is successfully continuing the fleet renewal programme for the British shipping company ISLES OF SCILLY STEAMSHIP GROUP (ISSG): the Menawethan has been delivered and christened, whilst the Scillonian IV is currently undergoing trials.**



**PIRIOU is proud to announce two major milestones in its fleet renewal programme, which provides services between Penzance and the Isles of Scilly: the official christening of the cargo vessel Menawethan on 8 July 2026, and the start of sea trials for the Scillonian IV ferry in Vietnam.**

**The Menawethan: a vessel dedicated to serving the Scilly Islands community, officially named.**

The first of two vessels ordered from PIRIOU by the historic family-owned shipping company based in Penzance, Menawethan was delivered at the end of June, on time and on budget. Following her construction at PIRIOU Vietnam, she completed a delivery voyage of more than

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two months to reach her home port. Covering several thousand nautical miles, this voyage enabled the vessel to fully demonstrate her excellent seakeeping qualities and robustness ahead of entering service in the Isles of Scilly.

Before arriving in Penzance, Menawethan made a two-week stopover in Concarneau, PIRIOU's historic headquarters. This final stage allowed completion of finishing works, final inspections and crew familiarisation, enabling ISSG's teams to take delivery of their new vessel under the best possible conditions.

On 8 July 2026, Menawethan was officially named during a traditional ceremony held on St Mary's Quay in the Isles of Scilly, attended by Lord-Lieutenant Colonel Sir Edward Bolitho, representing the British Crown, together with representatives from ISSG, PIRIOU and the local community.

At 45 metres in length, Menawethan has been specifically designed to meet the logistical needs of the islands. She will transport freight, fuel and essential supplies that are vital to daily life across the archipelago. More modern, efficient and environmentally friendly than the vessel she replaces, Menawethan also features enhanced cargo-handling capabilities and refrigerated storage facilities, ensuring year-round continuity of supply.

### **Scillonian IV begins sea trials**

Meanwhile, Scillonian IV, the programme's 75-metre passenger ferry, departed PIRIOU's shipyard in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 14 July 2026 to begin her sea trials off Vung Tau in the South China Sea.

Conducted in cooperation with Lloyd's Register and with representatives of ISSG on board, these trials mark a key milestone ahead of the vessel's delivery and entry into service in 2027.

The sea trials will validate the vessel's performance, manoeuvrability and compliance with the highest safety and environmental standards. Once successfully completed, Scillonian IV will begin her delivery voyage to Brittany before continuing to the United Kingdom, where she will replace the Scillonian III, which has been in service for nearly 50 years.

### **An outstanding collaboration between PIRIOU and ISSG**

The Isles of Scilly fleet renewal programme is the result of close collaboration between the teams of ISSG and PIRIOU, from the design phase carried out in Concarneau through to construction of both vessels at the Group's shipyard in Vietnam.

The construction of Menawethan and Scillonian IV is of particular significance to PIRIOU. Awarded following a highly competitive international tender process, the contract has enabled the Group to demonstrate its ability to design and build complex vessels meeting the demanding requirements of such an iconic British shipowner as ISSG.

Following numerous successful projects for the French island communities, the Isles of Scilly fleet renewal programme represents an important milestone in PIRIOU's development, strengthening both its position in the ferry market and its international footprint. It also confirms the relevance of the Group's industrial model, combining Breton engineering and project management expertise with competitive international production capabilities.

With Menawethan and soon Scillonian IV, PIRIOU is delivering one of the most significant island connectivity programmes in Europe in recent years. The Group now intends to build on this success to support new fleet renewal projects in France and internationally.

**Vincent Faujour, Chairman of the PIRIOU Group, said:**

*"We are particularly proud to have delivered Menawethan to ISSG. This vessel is the result of close cooperation between our two companies, and I sincerely thank our client for placing their trust in us. Following her long delivery voyage from Vietnam to Cornwall, the vessel has fully demonstrated her excellent seakeeping qualities and her ability to fulfil the essential mission that awaits her in serving the Isles of Scilly. We know how eagerly she has been awaited by the island communities, and we are delighted to have contributed to such a vital project for their future. Beyond this first delivery, the programme illustrating PIRIOU's ability to support European shipowners on demanding fleet renewal projects. We are now fully focused on the next milestone: the completion of sea trials and the delivery of Scillonian IV this winter."*



## Main characteristics of the freight vessel Menawethan

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Length overall: 45.00 m  
Beam: 11.30 m  
Depth moulded: 4.15 m  
Maximum draught: 3.60 m  
Crew: 7  
Maximum speed: 10 knots  
Hull / Superstructure: Steel / Steel  
Propulsion (IMO Tier III): 2 x 559 kW @ 1,800 rpm  
2 hydraulic bow thrusters  
Maximum deadweight cargo capacity: 207 tonnes

Fuel cargo capacity: 29 tonnes  
Passenger capacity: 12 persons  
150 m<sup>2</sup> timber aft working deck  
3.2-tonne side pallet lift  
3 refrigerated rooms: one at -23°C and two at +3°C  
6-tonne deck crane (14 m outreach)  
Grey water and black water treatment system  
UK Flag  
Lloyd's Register Classification

## About PIRIOU Group

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France's leading independent shipbuilding and ship repair group, PIRIOU has been designing and building high value-added vessels for public and private shipowners worldwide since 1965.

Drawing on its integrated engineering expertise and industrial facilities in Europe, Africa and Asia — including PIRIOU Vietnam, where the ISSG vessels were built — the Group develops tailored solutions for passenger transport, island connectivity services, maritime services, fishing, scientific research, defence and maritime sovereignty missions.

With nearly 600 vessels built and delivered worldwide, PIRIOU has established itself as a leading player in the shipbuilding industry both in France and internationally. The Isles of Scilly programme, comprising the freight vessel Menawethan and the passenger ferry Scillonian IV, further demonstrates the Group's ability to support shipowners in delivering strategic fleet renewal projects.

Today, PIRIOU employs more than 1,400 people worldwide and generated revenues of €361 million in 2025. <https://www.piriou.com/en/>

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