

Maine DOT Request for Proposals for Electrical Integrator for Replacement of Margaret Chase Smith Ferry Vessel

Additional RFP questions received as of February 11, 2026 and answers are below:

1. Regarding Cat C32 main engines:

- a. Keel cooled or heat exchanger cooled?
- b. Air started or electric?
- c. Alternators on engines? None, 70A, 105A?
- d. Exhaust flex with split Y?
- e. Any PTO's or auxiliary drive off the engines?

Answers:

Main engines and generators will be keel cooled with grid coolers on hull.

Starting to be decided in design phase depending on automation and controls. Last hybrid vessel for MaineDOT is electric start for main and generator engines.

Main engines will have electric block heaters.

Main engines will have sound isolation mounts.

Main engines will have 105A alternators.

Main engines will have Y exhaust flexes.

No additional auxiliary PTO's on the main engines are planned.

2. Regarding ship service generators:

- a. Arrangement will be propulsion engine mounted to generator end?
- b. Variable speed with AC or DC output?
- c. Engine-generator close coupled or remote?
- d. Electric or air start?
- e. Keel cooled or heat exchanger cooled?
- f. Alternator?
- g. Block heater?

Answers:

Generator make and model is still to be finalized during the design phase. Caterpillar may not have model in the 350 kw range. Variable speed generators using propulsion engines and permanent magnet generators are preferred, similar to the previous Maine ferry vessel.

AC or DC, and variable speed or not is still to be finalized. Previous vessel has variable speed AC generators.

Preference is for close-coupled engine generators on skids.

Starting system to be decided. Previous vessel's generators were equipped with electric integrated starter-generators by BAE Systems

Generators will be keel cooled with grid coolers on hull.

Alternators on generator engines will be decided during the design phase.

Generator engines will have electric block heaters.

Generator engines will have sound isolation mounts.