The Port of Seattle is exploring the development of a new cruise facility at the north berth of Terminal 46. The new terminal is possible because the Northwest Seaport Alliance is realigning international maritime cargo operations with the Terminal 5 Modernization Program which creates room at Terminal 46 to build a new cruise terminal co-located with marine cargo.

The Port is seeking a partner to support co-investment into the terminal and to potentially operate the facility once construction is completed. For more information, please visit: www.bit.ly/cruiseRFQ

Seattle is an established homeport and cruise leader on the West Coast, with 45 percent of the Alaska cruise market and seven cruise brands currently serving Pier 66 and Pier 91. Maintaining market share and meeting future demand requires new infrastructure built to the Port’s environmental standards.

Plans are underway to develop the new terminal for Alaska, Pacific Northwest, and West Coast cruises. Seattle’s deepwater port is a natural asset that can accommodate some of the largest vessels in the world. Seattle’s spectacular setting and easy access to Sea-Tac Airport has made an Alaska cruise from Seattle a “bucket list” vacation.

The Port plans to invest $100 million and is seeking a partner to provide 50 percent of funding and potentially operate the terminal once it opens. The early cost estimate for the entire development is approximately $200 million which includes all terminal building and non-terminal building elements, in-water elements, permitting and mitigation.
BOOSTING STATE-WIDE TOURISM

The Port of Seattle’s cruise program benefits the local and regional economy and supports tourism, the fourth largest economic sector in our state. An average cruise passenger spends $850 before their voyage and $697 after they return. Support comes through revenue to hotels, restaurants, museums, visitor attractions, transportation companies, and other tour operators. Port programs like the Port’s tourism marketing grant program, the Sea-Tac Airport “Spotlight” advertising program, and economic development partnerships broaden the economic value across our state.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Port of Seattle operates the most environmentally progressive home port in North America. Through innovative commitments to clean water and clean energy, the Port and its partners continue to emphasize healthy communities and habitats in and around our working waterfront.

At the new cruise terminal, the Port will incorporate leading edge environmental stewardship and sustainability practices that exceed existing regulations through strategies like clean shore power and clean water agreements. The Port is committed to install shore power at the new cruise facility at Terminal 46.

SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Each vessel call supports an estimated $4.2 million in economic activity for our region. Suppliers from across the state, including seafood and produce companies, florists, farmers, vineyards, and maritime support industries have built strong businesses selling to cruise companies.

An additional terminal will increase connectivity to Seattle’s redeveloped waterfront and expand public access to the water’s edge, setting a new standard for walkability, sustainability, and connectivity.

The cruise industry draws thousands of visitors to Washington state, providing almost $900 million in statewide business revenue. Even communities hundreds of miles from the closest vessel see economic benefits from Seattle’s cruise industry — from food sourced from around Washington state, to travelers who turn a one-week cruise into an extended Washington state vacation.

BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

In March 2018, the Port of Seattle Commissioners adopted cruise business principles to ensure careful development of our facilities. The principles prioritize maritime and industrial uses, expand connection to the waterfront for all, support the financial sustainability of the Port, incorporate leading edge environmental stewardship practices, facilitate improved transportation of people and goods, and emphasize excellent customer service.

In 2019 Seattle expects to serve 213 cruise ship calls and 1.2 million passengers. This proposed new terminal would further expand the economic opportunities to the region while maintaining industrial use of the waterfront for maritime uses and marine cargo operations.