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Moran Iron Works to Build First Ever Kayak Launching Vessel in the Great Lakes



ONAWAY, MI: Moran Iron Works, Inc. (MIW) has signed a contract with Pictured Rocks Kayaking (PRK) to build a specialized passenger tour vessel. Together, and in conjunction with DLBA (a division of Gibbs & Cox, Inc.), they are creating a special purpose tour boat that is first of its kind in the Great Lakes Region.

The 64' by 19' vessel will be constructed out of aluminium at Moran Iron Works' headquarters in Onaway, Michigan. The purpose of this particular unnamed vessel is to escort 72 passengers and 36 kayaks around Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for guided kayak tours. This vessel will feature a custom-designed kayak launch system that is tailored to meet the specific needs of offshore kayak launching.

"Fabrication officially began with the laying of the deck plate on December 6, 2018," said Lee Fayssoux, project manager at MIW. "This is a very exciting project for us. It is a real privilege to have an 'Inspired by Michigan' vessel in our shop. This vessel will not only be capable of carrying passengers, but will also be capable of deploying and retrieving guests in kayaks. It's a revolutionary way of experiencing the beauty that Northern Michigan, particularly Pictured Rocks, has to offer. This vision was recognized by our customer, and acted on with development from MIW and our partner architect DLBA. We are ecstatic that they chose MIW for this build, and ecstatic that this vessel will serve tourists who visit the waters of Pictured Rocks."

With nearly two months into the project, MIW and PRK are on their way to achieving the goal of launch and delivery by the late 2019.



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About Moran Iron Works:

Moran Iron Works is a HUBZone-certified Small Business Concern that was founded in 1978 by Thomas Moran and has their headquarters and largest manufacturing facility (125,000 total sq. ft.) in Onaway, Michigan, and access via their high-wire corridor to their Deep Water Port in Rogers City, Michigan. They are a dynamic fabrication facility that provides a full range of custom design, engineering, fabrication, installation, service, repair, and modification services throughout a number of industries including marine, power, industrial and hydro. For more information, visit www.moraniron.com.

About Pictured Rocks Kayaking:

Pictured Rocks Kayaking is a guided kayak tour company based out of Munising, Michigan. The company offers the only offshore kayak launch on Lake Superior, providing access to the most scenic section of shoreline within the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. For more information, visit www.paddlepaintedrocks.com.

About DLBA:

DLBA is a naval architecture and marine engineering firm which provides consulting services for the design and construction management of motor yachts, fiberglass recreational boats, and aluminum workboats. We specialize in high-performance marine craft, yet support all types of vessels and clients from record-setting race boats to commercial marine tugs and barges. DLBA is a division of Gibbs & Cox, Inc. For more information, visit www.dlba-inc.com.