

Cruise lines visit Banana Coast for site

Representatives of Carnival Corp., Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and Norwegian Cruise Line on Feb. 7 visited the site of the Banana Coast project — the only new Caribbean destination currently under construction.

The VIPs included Carnival's Jose Negrón, RCCL's Federico Gonzalez and Colin Murphy of NCL.

The \$30 million project, led by Grande Trujillo Autoridad, Desarrollos Vision de Vida and Miami-based Global Destinations Development, is in the site-work stage, with dredging, marine works and site-fill under way.

"Cruise lines are always looking for new destinations that offer the elements of a great port of call," said Randy Jorgensen, CEO of Desarrollos Vision de Vida.

"Banana Coast is located within the city limits of a Spanish colonial town just walking distance from the beach, restaurants, bars and historic sites, so it has everything."

Plans include construction of a two-berth, Post-Panamax dock and a 50,000-square-foot shopping facility and transportation hub on 10 acres of beachfront land. Themed "Where the Rainforest Meets the Sea," Banana Coast has accepted its first cruise ship reservations for the 2013 season.

Banana Coast is set to announce its initial lineup of shore excursions that range from zipline rainforest adventures to all-terrain vehicle jungle drives to airplane flights to visit Mayan ruins.

Sonar offers open- and shallow-water protection

WESMAR, a leading U.S. manufacturer of sonar equipment, is displaying the Model NS860 Navigation and Security Sonar at Cruise Shipping Miami.

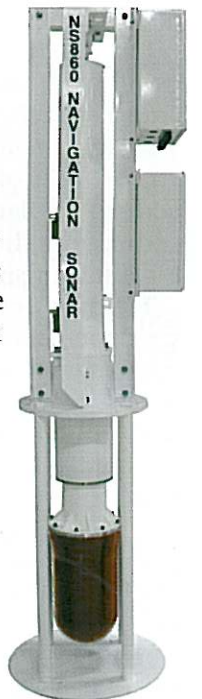
For cruise ships and excursion vessels, the NS860 sonar offers both open-water and shallow-water protection. In open water it is a tool for avoiding objects near the surface such as icebergs or lost containers. In shallow water it is used to locate large rocks, reefs, shoals and objects sunken in shipping lanes or navigable channels.

WESMAR's NS860 features precision beam stabilization for maximum-range performance in hazardous close-to-shore and shallow-water situations. The NS860 displays a 360-degree sonar picture of the underwater area around and beneath the vessel, giving captains a clear picture of suitable depth and obstacles to avoid.

The sonar design uses a large multi-element array that provides the narrowest, most highly concentrated 110 kHz sound beam ever developed. It projects a narrow sound beam that substantially improves detection ranges of near-surface and shallow-water hazards.

To keep the beam focused the transducer array is stabilized with WESMAR's next-generation advanced gyro-electric stabilization. This stabilization provides finite alignment of the sonar array in rough sea conditions and stops the sonar sound beam from encountering the surface or seabed when the sonar is scanning at long ranges ahead of the vessel.

The NS860 incorporates a three-position long-stroke M18 hoist. The LS-M18 will deploy the sonar dome down to a maximum depth of 160 cm below the vessel's hull. This extended deployment capability keeps the sonar dome away from vessel-generated cavitation and noise, and allows the sonar to provide a clear picture.



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