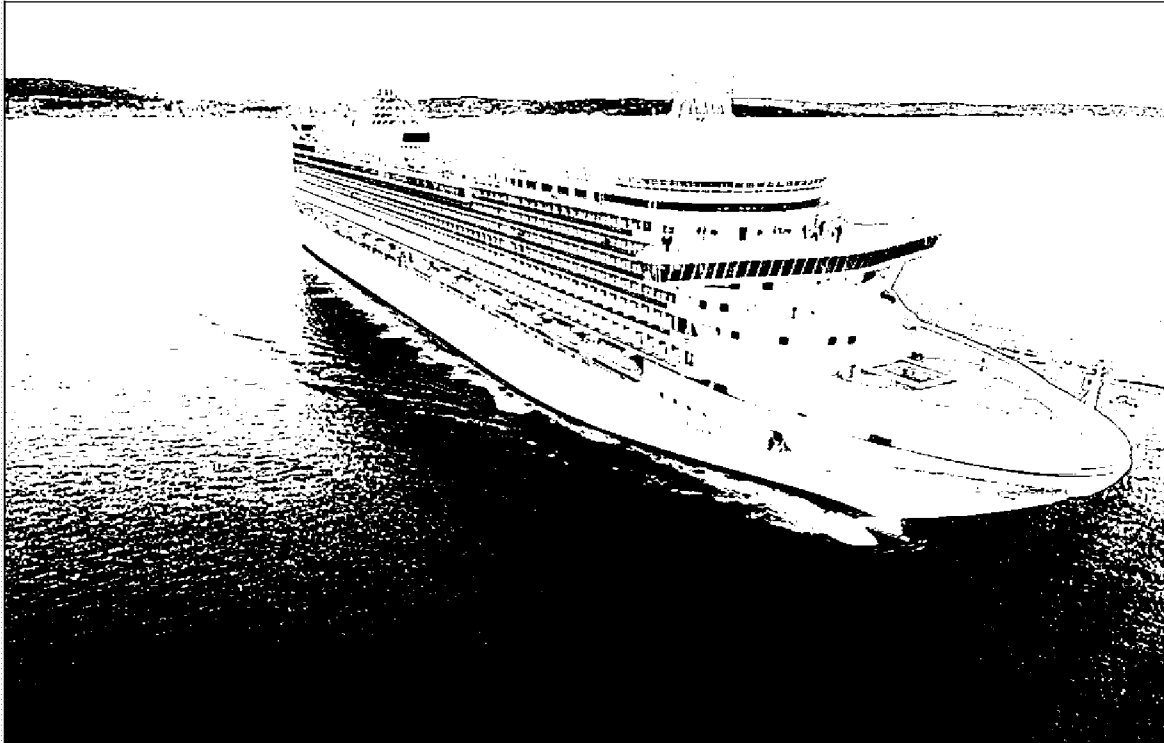


Number 49 Carnival receives latest cruiseship



ITALIAN shipbuilder Fincantieri has handed over the 49th cruiseship it has built for the Carnival Group, writes *Craig Eason*.

The 82,000 gt *Azura*, pictured, has been delivered to P&O Cruises and will become the new flagship of the company's fleet. The 290 m long cruiseship can accommodate 2,200

passengers and 1,200 crew and will be used by P&O in the UK market.

Along with the expected entertainment features of a modern cruiseship, including 12 bars, three gyms and an 800-seat theatre, the ship will have an open air cinema screen by the side of one of its three swimming pools.

Fincantieri and Carnival have a

relationship going back 20 years, with another nine cruiseships on order for delivery within the next four years.

These include two new vessels for Princess Cruises, another Carnival subsidiary.

The pair of 3,600 passenger prototype designs will be delivered in 2013 and 2014.

