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IRISH FERRIES has won two top British travel awards for their sea services between Ireland and Britain.

Against competition from companies operating on the North Sea, the English Channel and Irish Sea routes, Irish Ferries was voted winner of the Ferry Operator of the Year award sponsored by leading British travel trade publication, Travel Trade Gazette.

The award was decided by a panel of 37 industry experts. Their second award, Best Ferry Company on the Irish Sea, was presented by the World Travel Awards organisation, whose awards were hailed by the Wall Street Journal as the travel industry's equivalent to the Oscars. A ten-times winner of Ireland's

Best Ferry Company award, this is the first occasion on which Irish Ferries have been presented with travel awards in Britain.

Irish Ferries marketing director Tony Kelly said: "Besides being a tribute to our staff and crew, our success in winning these awards provides independent verification of the improved levels of service and passenger care which customers can now expect when travelling on our services."