

New build RV Wim Wolff



Progress report #28: May 2023

The RV Wim Wolff is a new shipbuilding project for the Dutch national research fleet. The fleet is owned and operated by the National Marine Facilities (NMF), a department of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ). The NMF fleet consists of three vessels capable of conducting research from the shallow coastal waters out into the open ocean.

The RV Wim Wolff is intended to replace the Wadden Sea research vessel RV Navicula, and with its shallow draught of 1 meter it is specifically designed for overnight voyages for research in the Wadden Sea, the Zeeland delta or the coastal zone.

With a permanent crew of four, the RV Wim Wolff will offer state-of-the-art facilities for a maximum of 12 passengers, and is equipped with onboard dry and wet lab facilities. The vessel also has room for two customised lab containers on the working deck.

The RV Wim Wolff will be built by Thecla Bodewes Shipyards (TBSY) in Harlingen, and is scheduled for delivery in the 2nd quarter of 2023.

Finishing work

The finishing work on the RV Wim Wolff should be finished in a few months, and the progress is clearly visible on all three decks (from bottom to top): [1] tank top deck (cabins and engine room); [2] main deck (wardroom, labs and working deck); [3] Bridge deck.

The vessel is beginning to fill up, and good coordination and collaboration between the subcontractors is vital in order to take full advantage of the available space.



View from the bridge to the aft deck. Materials are currently being stored on the sections of the deck where the synthetic deck panels have already been installed.



Most of the work of fitting the synthetic deck panels has already been completed. The base for the A-frame is clearly visible. ©FH

Tank top deck

The bulkhead partitions for the crew and passenger cabins were installed last month. Most of the pipelines, cables and connections behind the bulkheads and overheads are now complete. The overheads and cabins will be finished over the coming month.

The electric heated decks in the heads have also been installed.



The gangway, with cabins to port and starboard.



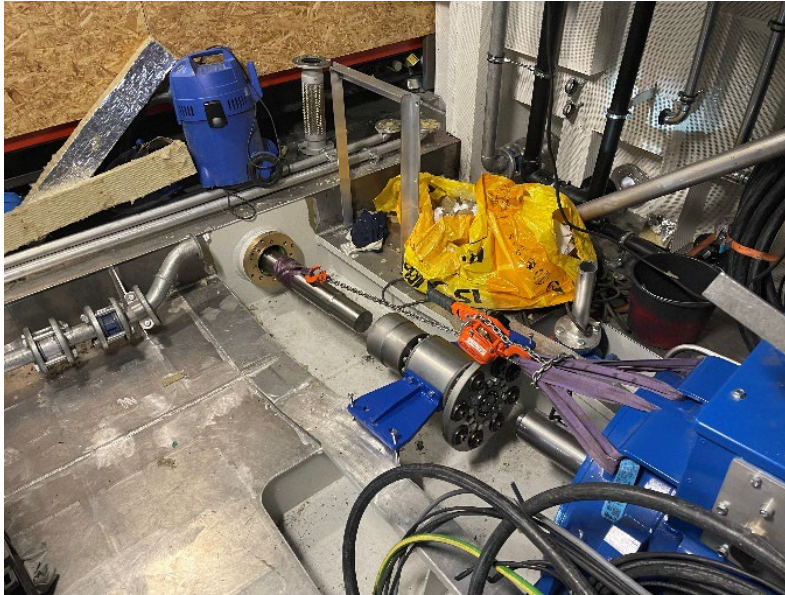
The central heads are equipped with heated decks.

The engine room is 95% complete. The last bit of equipment were the Scania generator sets, which were lowered into the engine room via the hatch in the aft deck. The generator sets will be fitted to the base and connected in the month ahead.

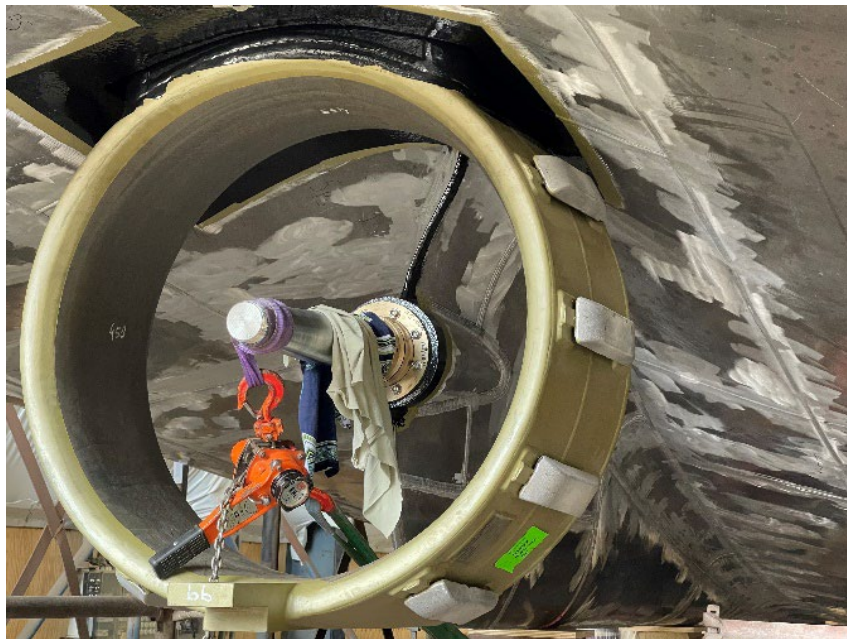


The generators in the engine room. ©FH

In addition to the main engines, the propeller drive shafts have been installed inside the synthetic water-lubricated stern tubes. The vessel is equipped with diesel-electric hybrid propulsion: the generators provide the electricity that power the electric motors and drive shafts.



One of the drive shafts and electric motors, connected by a thrust bearing that transfers the propulsion power to the vessel's hull. ©FH



Below the vessel we can see the drive shafts surrounded by the propeller duct. Only the propeller needs to be installed. ©FH

Main deck

The galley and messroom are almost complete on the main deck. All of the appliances have been installed in the galley. Once the last work on the overhead in the galley and messroom is complete, the overhead panels can be closed.

Part of the messroom bulkheads will be installed over the coming month.



View of the galley from the passageway, showing the installed appliances.



The messroom with the open overhead and bulkheads. The pass-through hatches from the galley to the messroom are also visible in the bulkhead.

Bridge deck

The wheelhouse is where a wide range of control equipment comes together, in consoles mounted on the deck and overhead. Now that the consoles have been installed, the instruments and equipment can be connected as well. The technicians are laying meters of cables every day. Unfortunately, their progress is not immediately visible to the untrained observer, due to the large number of cables and connections running through the consoles.



The wheelhouse, showing the housings protecting the consoles. Technicians are hard at work installing and connecting all of the cables.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.NewResearchFleet.nl>

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