

Construction RV *Wim Wolff*



Progress report #36: January 2024

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* is being built by Thecla Bodewes Shipyards (TBSY) in Harlingen, and is scheduled for delivery in the 1st quarter of 2024.

END IN SIGHT

The month of January was occupied with making the various systems and their connections operation and with conducting the first sea trials.

COMMISSIONING

The commissioning process involves testing isolated components for functionality, and if the inspection team and classification society are satisfied, they approve the components.

These tests are conducted in the harbour and during the sea trials.

Depending on the component or system, the classification society may also be present for the tests.

Some examples of tests that require the presence and approval of the classification society include checks of the safety equipment and watertight hatches, including open/closed signalling.

Checks of the fitness equipment and refrigerators and freezers only require the involvement of the NIOZ.

The complexity of the RV *Wim Wolff* is indicated by the large number of tests and approvals required: around 80. Approximately half of the tests and approvals have been conducted so far.

In principle, there is no opportunity for the shipyard to make any changes in this phase, unless they would not cause a delay and would make a clear improvement.

Some recent examples of these last-minute changes include dividing the tables to improve accessibility of the seating, and applying large labels with information in the spaces accessible to passengers.



All tests are conducted according to special protocols. Extra inspections are sometimes needed, as with the propeller drive shafts. These inspections require the vessel to be put in drydock.



The long tables in the messroom originally featured one long surface (top), which limited accessibility of the seating behind the table. Adding a folding section to the table (below) makes the seating more accessible.



Labels in English have been applied to the doors to all spaces accessible to passengers, due to the international composition of the scientists on board.



*The list of alarms on a circuit breaker in the engine room switchboard locker.
Each alarm is checked individually, and signed for approval.*

The future NIOZ crew will come aboard every week to master the new vessel's operations. The shipyard will also offer special training courses for the crew over the next few weeks.



The installation of the Captain's Chair (with NIOZ logo) in the wheelhouse allows the crew to drill using the equipment in the control panels.

The RV *Wim Wolff*'s christening ceremony is scheduled for 15 February at the NIOZ harbour on Texel. After the christening, the vessel is expected to return to the shipyard for the final inspections and sea trials. Representatives of the classification society will observe some tests and trials as necessary.

INFORMATIE

Doop RV Wim Wolff

Donderdag 15 februari 2024

Programma:

11:00 Presentaties wetenschappelijk onderzoek en schip
13:00 Lunch
14:00 -17:00 Speeches, doopceremonie, rondleidingen en borrel

Parkeren en busvervoer:

Er is alleen parkeergelegenheid bij de TESO haven, **niet op de NIOZ haven.**

Als u aankomt met de veerboot om **10:55 uur** voor het ochtendprogramma **loopt** u in 5 minuten naar het NIOZ hoofdgebouw. Na de lunch wordt u **per bus** vervoerd naar de NIOZ haven.

Als u aankomt met de veerboot om **13:55 uur** staat er bij de TESO haven **busvervoer** klaar om u naar de NIOZ haven te brengen.

Na afloop is er vanaf 16:30 uur **busvervoer** naar de veerboot van **17:00 uur** en daarna **busvervoer tot 17:30 uur** terug naar het NIOZ of de parkeerplaats bij de TESO haven.



Locatie:

Ochtendprogramma (en lunch):
Hoofdgebouw NIOZ, Landsdiep 4, 1797 SZ 't Horntje (Texel)

Middagprogramma en doop:
Seaport Texel (NIOZ-haven): Zuiderhaaks 18, 1797 SH 't Horntje

The invitation to the RV Wim Wolff's christening ceremony on Texel, 15 February .

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