



New build RV *Adriaen Coenen*



Progress report #7: September 2021

The RV *Adriaen Coenen* 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 *Adriaen Coenen* is intended to replace the Wadden Sea research vessel RV *Stern*, and with its shallow draught of 1 meter it is specifically designed for day trips for research in the Wadden Sea or the Zeeland delta.

With a permanent crew of one, the RV *Adriaen Coenen* will offer state-of-the-art daytime facilities for a maximum of 12 passengers, and is equipped with rudimentary dry and wet lab facilities. The deck will also facilitate all of the research activities that an A- and a J-frame can offer.

The RV *Adriaen Coenen* is being built by Next Generation Shipyards in Lauwersoog, and will be completed in May 2022.

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Hull construction

Now that the summer holidays are over, the full staff are working full speed to complete the construction of the hull of the RV *Adriaen Coenen*. The hull was rotated on 7 September and builders began applying the hull panels.



Condition on 9 September: the hull has just been rotated ©NGS

Rotating the hull is a more efficient way to weld the hull panels to the frame. Once the panels have been applied, welded and the seams have been ground, the hull can be rotated upright again to mount the wheelhouse and ventilation housings. That will complete the work on the hull.

In the meantime, the shipyard has assembled the engine room hatches and the A-frame. Many other details such as bollards, railings, etc. have also been assembled so that they can be installed on the vessel in the very near future.



Current state of affairs late September 2021. Top: most of the hull panels have been attached. Below: the wheelhouse is ready to be attached to the hull.

In September, the hull panels were installed and most of the welding was completed.

Much of the engineering work is also finished and has reached the phase where the engineers can process the NIOZ' comments. Agreement has been reached regarding the interior layout, finish and colours and the definitive dashboard design is virtually complete.



The dimensions of the RV Adriaen Coenen are slowly emerging, with Dirk Keizer from NGS and NIOZ project leader Feico Hoogeveen in the upside-down wheelhouse.

Construction schedule

In early October, the hull will be rotated upright, the wheelhouse and ventilation housings will be installed and the last welding work on the hull will be complete. The hull is scheduled to be complete by late September, after which builders can immediately begin work on the superstructure. The finishing phase will start a few weeks later, but the delay will not affect the final delivery date. The emphasis in the engineering work next month will be on elaborating the details of the electrical installation and the design of the automated systems.

For more information, please visit: www.NewResearchFleet.nl.



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