

Construction RV *Wim Wolff*



Progress report #10: November 2021

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 deck.

The RV *Wim Wolff* will be built by Thecla Bodewes Shipyards in Harlingen, and is scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of 2023.

Keel laid

The keel of the RV *Wim Wolff* was laid at N. Dijkstra Metaalbewerking in Harlingen on 9 November.

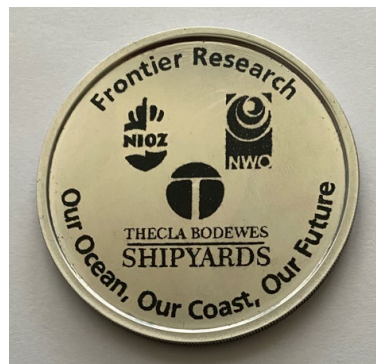


Thecla Bodewes welcomes everyone to TBSY © Aernout Steegstra

The event was bittersweet due to the sudden passing of Alex Colfino, head of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) National Marine Facilities (NMF) department and the driving force behind the renewal of the national fleet.

In her welcome greeting, Thecla Bodewes recalled the vital role Alex Colfino played in the contract negotiations and in supervising the construction of the RV *Wim Wolff*.

Like her sister ship the RV *Adriaen Coenen*, a special aluminium medallion was minted and welded to the keel of the RV *Wim Wolff* as part of the ceremony to bring the ship good luck.



Face and reverse of the special coin used for the laying of the keel of the RV Wim Wolff.

As the guests from NWO/NIOZ and Thecla Bodewes Shipyards looked on, former NIOZ director Prof. Henk Brinkhuis presented the special coin to Bram Fey, future skipper of the RV Wim Wolff, who then welded the coin to the keel.



The coin waiting to be welded to the keel of section 330.
© Aernout Steegstra



*Presentation of coin used for the laying of the keel of the RV Wim Wolff.
©Aernout Steegstra*



*Bram Fey (left) welds the coin to the keel of the RV Wim Wolff.
©Aernout Steegstra*



In consultation with N. Dijkstra Metaalbewerking, TBSY has decided to contract part of the hull construction work to Alubouw Fryslan in Franeker, alongside the work contracted to KB Alubouw in Makkum.

The hull sections and wheelhouse will be joined together at N. Dijkstra Metaalbewerking in Harlingen, and Thecla Bodewes Shipyards will complete the construction work at its location in Harlingen.

The shipyard is currently hard at work drawing up the blueprints for the remaining sections and purchasing tools and materials for the on-board installations.

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

@ResearchFleetNL

