

## Shipping looks to wind to cut emissions and fuel costs with EU backing

**Wind assisted propulsion can cut fuel use and emissions, but shipowners still need reliable data before investing at scale. With EU support, a new European initiative will help close that gap through full scale demonstrations, verified data and decision support tools.**

AWESOME, the new EU project launched in Brussels today, will provide shipowners with verified performance data, practical tools and standardised methods for assessing wind assisted propulsion.

The aim is to reduce uncertainty, lower investment risk and accelerate the use of cost-effective emission reduction solutions in shipping.

Led by Kongsberg Maritime and supported by 14 partners across Europe, the Horizon Europe-funded project brings together industry and research to support the transition to low- and zero-emission shipping. AWESOME tackles technical, operational and regulatory barriers that still limit wider deployment of wind propulsion.

*“Wind-assisted propulsion is one of the most attractive pathways to compliant, cost-effective shipping. We believe AWESOME represents a major step forward in scaling this technology”,* says Kjerstin Kleyne Braaten, SVP Emerging Solutions at Kongsberg Maritime.

AWESOME will test how wind propulsion can be integrated with onboard systems, control and automation in real operating conditions. The work will support compliance with frameworks such as FuelEU Maritime and future IMO standards, while helping shipowners reduce fuel consumption before relying on more costly low carbon fuels.

### Reducing risk and scaling solutions

For many shipowners, the main barrier is uncertainty about performance, payback time and operational impact.

The AWESOME partners will address this by delivering validated performance data and decision-support tools that make decisions easier to assess.

### Full-scale demonstrations at sea

Two full-scale demonstrators will be central to the work: one retrofit and one newbuild. The retrofit case, *Bow Olympus* from Odfjell Management, will show how wind propulsion can be integrated into existing vessels. The newbuild, *Neoliner Origin* from Neoline, will demonstrate how the technology can be optimised from the design stage.

Together, the vessels will provide robust real-world data across vessel types and operating conditions, helping the industry reduce risk and accelerate deployment at scale.

### Supporting industry uptake and regulation

*“Europe is currently a global leader in wind assisted propulsion. AWESOME will help strengthen that position by pooling public and private resources, ensuring large scale deployment. The result can be lower emissions and more economically viable use of sustainable alternative fuels”,* says Jaap

Gebraad, Secretary General, Waterborne Technology Platform, which will be collaborating closely with this new initiative.

This new collaboration will also support wider industry uptake by improving how performance is measured, documented and recognised. In parallel, the project will generate knowledge relevant to crews, operators and future regulatory development.

### **About the project**

AWESOME (Advanced Wind Energy System Optimisation & Monitoring for Efficiency) brings together 15 leading European partners spanning the full maritime value chain. This broad partnership supports an end-to-end approach, from design and simulation to onboard control, crew training, performance verification and market uptake. The project is supported by ~ 9 million Euro from Horizon Europe,

- Technology developers and system integrators:  
Kongsberg Maritime (NO) (Coordinator), Syroco (F), bound4blue (ES), Chantiers de l'Atlantique (F)
- Shipowners and operators:  
Odfjell Management (NO), NEOLine (F)
- Research partners:  
SINTEF Ocean (NO), SINTEF Digital (NO), NTUA (G), MARIN (NL)
- Design and engineering:  
MAURIC (F)
- Classification and verification:  
DNV (NO & DE)
- Center for decarbonisation and dissemination:  
Maritime CleanTech (NO)

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**Bow Olympus**

*Odfjell's 49,000 DWT chemical tanker has been retrofitted with four 22-metre eSAIL® suction sails from bound4blue. The vessel has already demonstrated fuel savings of around 20% on selected voyages, making it a strong platform for improving WAPS control, onboard monitoring and crew training.*



**Neoliner Origin**

*The world's first hybrid commercial RoRo sailing vessel is designed around two 76-metre SOLIDSAIL rigs from Chantiers de l'Atlantique. With a target of up to 80% lower emissions, it represents a new generation of wind-powered deep-sea cargo transport.*