

New build RV *Wim Wolff*



Progress report #9: October 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.

The RV *Wim Wolff* will be built by Thecla Bodewes Shipyards in Harlingen, and is scheduled for delivery in late 2022.

Hull construction

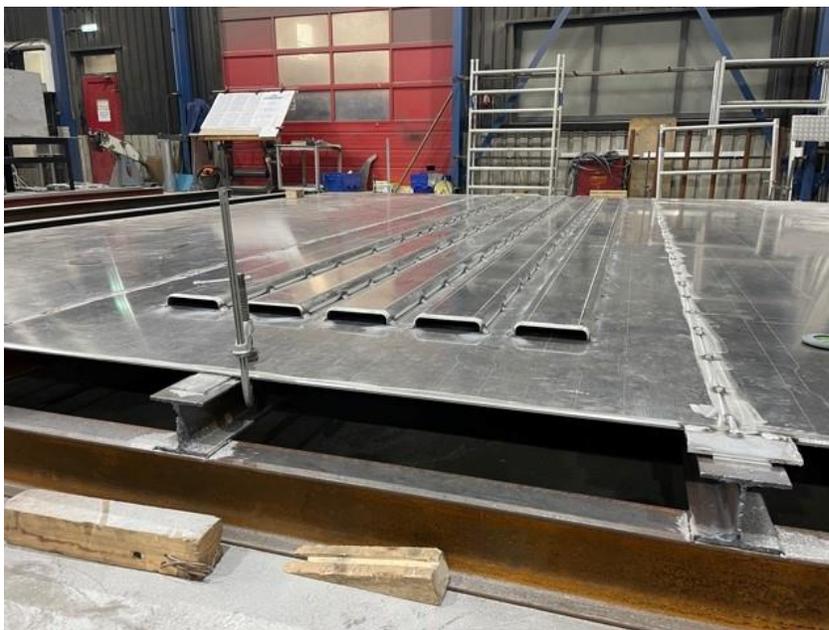
Thecla Bodewes Shipyards (TBG) has contracted N. Dijkstra Metaalbewerking in Harlingen for the construction of the aluminium hull of the RV *Wim Wolff*. KB Alubouw in Makkum will build the cabin and wheelhouse. The hull and wheelhouse sections will be joined together at Thecla Bodewes Shipyards in Harlingen.

The hull will be built in 6-meter sections that are welded together to form the finished vessel. After a slower start-up period, construction on the first section is now in full swing.



Construction of the first section of the RV Wim Wolff at N. Dijkstra in Harlingen in late October. ©FH

The hull of the RV *Wim Wolff* will be built in 'reverse' order: the bottom of each section will be assembled first, then the section will be rotated to finish the construction.



*First section of the RV Wim Wolff. Top: the hull begins to take shape.
Bottom: detail of the cooling ducts on the hull plating. ©FH*



The shipyard is currently hard at work drawing up the blueprints for the production of the remaining sections and preparing plans for the finishing work together with the subcontractors.

Any necessary equipment that has not yet been selected and/or purchased, such as motors, screw propellers, axles, etc., will be ordered in the very near future.

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

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