

## Construction RV *Wim Wolff*



### Progress report #13: February 2022

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.

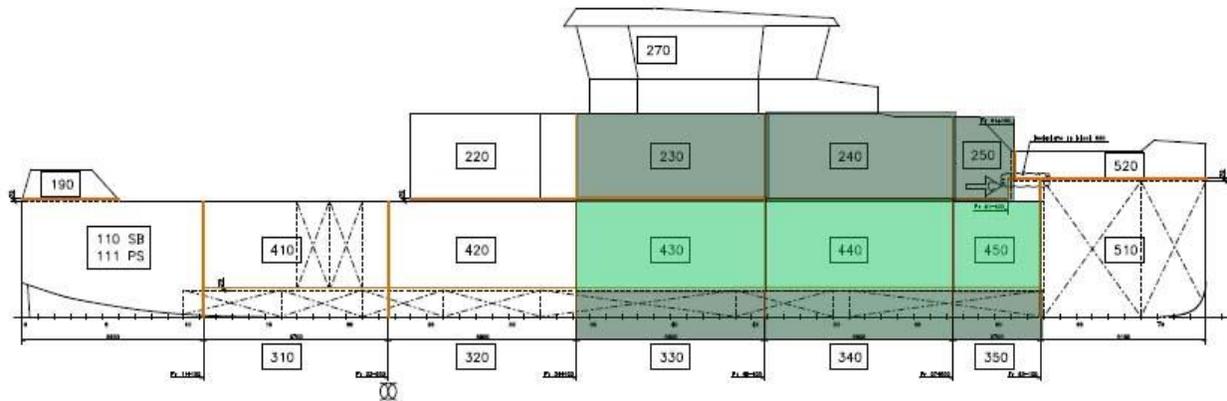
The RV *Wim Wolff* is intended to replace the Wadden Sea research vessel RV *Navicula*, and with its shallow draught of 1 meter it is specifically designed for overnight voyages for research in the Wadden Sea, the Zeeland delta or the coastal zone.

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* will be built by Thecla Bodewes Shipyards (TBSY) in Harlingen, and is scheduled for delivery in the 1st quarter of 2023.

## Hull construction

The hull of the RV *Wim Wolff* is composed of several sections. These 'building blocks' are being constructed by three builders at different locations, and they will be joined together at a central location in Harlingen when complete.



*Current state of affairs in late February. The RV Wim Wolff's hull sections, with the completed sections shown in dark green and the sections still under construction in light green. ©FH*

Nine of the 20 sections have been completed so far. All of the sections will be transported to N. Dijkstra in Harlingen for final assembly.

The sections will be joined together in two phases. During the first phase, the bottom sections (labelled '300' sections) will be joined to the top sections (the '400' sections) to form a ring structure.

These rings will then be welded together before the 200 sections are installed on top. The last section will be number 270, which contains the wheelhouse.

The first ring sections are already starting to take shape at N. Dijkstra in Harlingen.

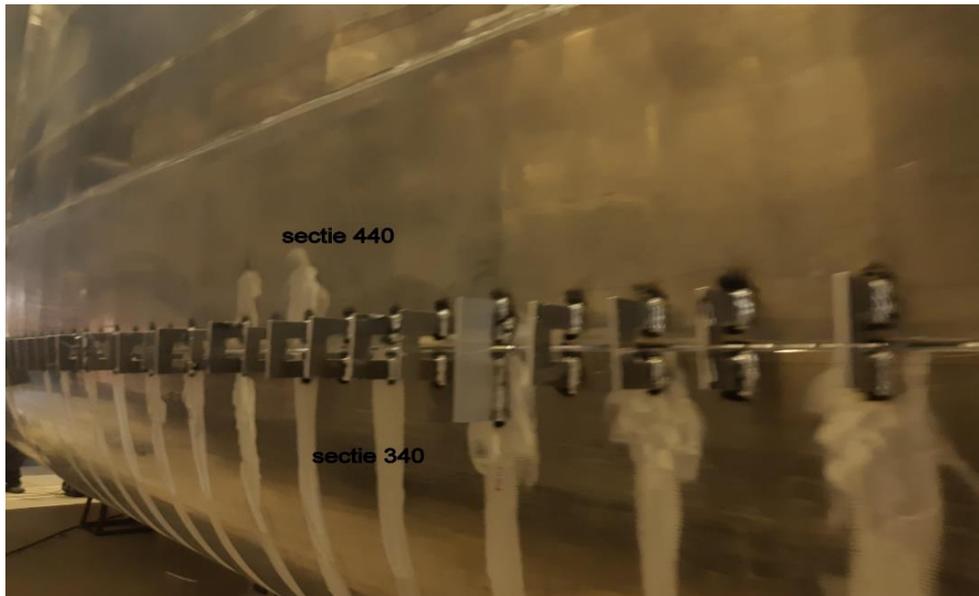


*Construction of the first ring sections. Two bottom sections (330 and 340) have already been positioned for welders to join together. Work has also begun on assembling the ring by adding sections 430 and 440. ©PB*

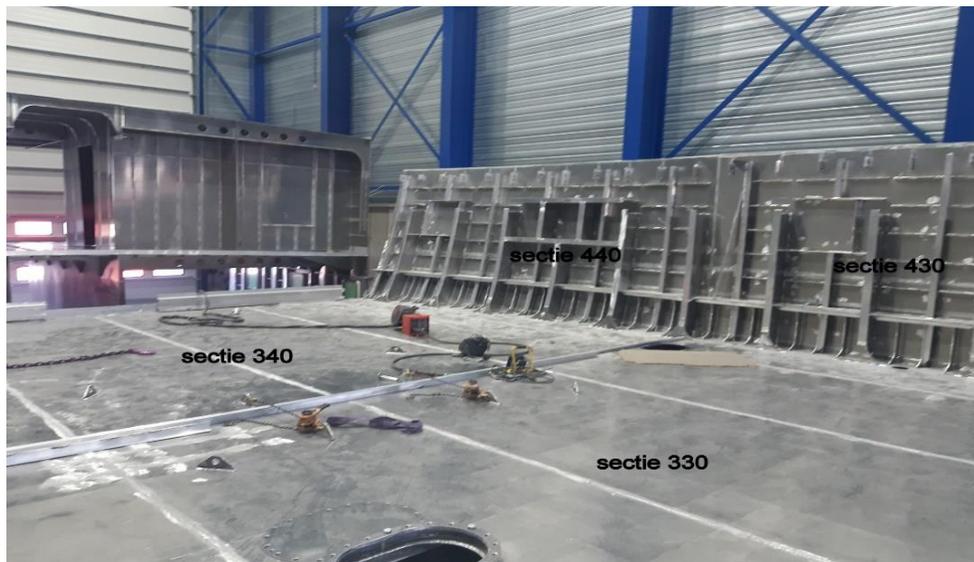
Workers have begun assembling bottom sections 330, 340 and 350 into ring sections, and bottom sections 330 and 340 are being welded together in the assembly hall.

Welding the sections together is precision work. Small strips are used to align and connect the sections for welding. Once the sections have been joined together, the strips will be removed and the hull will be ground smooth.

The midships sections of the hull will be assembled next month.



Temporary strips on the exterior of the hull used to align and connect the individual sections. ©PB



The alignment of sections 330 and 340 at N. Dijkstra in Harlingen. Parts of sections 430 and 440 are already visible. ©PB



• *Ring section 5, consisting of sections 350 and 450 is beginning to take shape.*

Preparations have already begun for the remaining work, including drawing up a schedule, purchasing equipment and contracting with subcontractors.

For more information, please visit: [www.NewResearchFleet.nl](http://www.NewResearchFleet.nl).

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