

New build RV Wim Wolff



Progress report #41: June 2024

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 was built by Thecla Bodewes Shipyards (TBSY) in Harlingen, and it was delivered to NIOZ there on Monday, 10 June 2024.

COMPLETION AND DELIVERY



Toast to the delivery. ©AvdB

On Monday, 10 June, Thecla Bodewes Shipyards officially transferred ownership of the RV Wim Wolff to the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ).

The handover ceremony was held in Kampen, in the presence of a small number of guests from the shipyard, NIOZ and the subcontractor firms.

The ceremony began with the signing of the transfer documents.

After a toast and some brief speeches, the shipyard's private signal was struck and the NIOZ signal was hoisted to signify the change of ownership.

The next day, the permanent NIOZ crew sailed the RV Wim Wolff to its home port on Texel.



Part of the future crew witnesses the signature of the transfer documents by Thecla Bodewes on behalf of the shipyard, and Peter Smit on behalf of the NIOZ. ©AvdB



The shipyard's private signal is struck by Ronald Kok, and the NIOZ signal was hoisted by Hein de Vries to indicate the change of ownership. ©AvdB



Past meets future: the RV Wim Wolff's arriving at the NIOZ harbour on Texel. Its predecessor, the RV Navicula, now bears a new name and livery in preparation for a second life in service of its new employer.

On Monday, 17 June, the RV Wim Wolff started work for the NIOZ as part of the SIBES project (Synoptic Intertidal Benthic Survey), with a full complement of 14 scientists and 4 crew on board. The project is a perfect start to the new vessel's scientific career.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.NewResearchFleet.nl>