Construction RV *Anna Weber-van Bosse*

Progress report #23: February 2025

@ResearchFleetNL

INTRODUCTION

When it is complete, the RV *Anna Weber-van Bosse* will serve as the ocean-going research vessel for the Netherlands' 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 *Anna Weber-van Bosse* will be built by Astilleros Armon in Vigo, Spain as hull number 147. Delivery is scheduled for late 2025.

A LOOK BACK OVER THE PAST MONTH

The shipyard is hard at work installing components, cable ducts and piping on board. The installation of the cables in the cabins and technical spaces is moving steadily forward. The site team still has to make some decisions about the locations of the distribution boxes and switchboards on board, but the consultations and the work are both progressing smoothly.

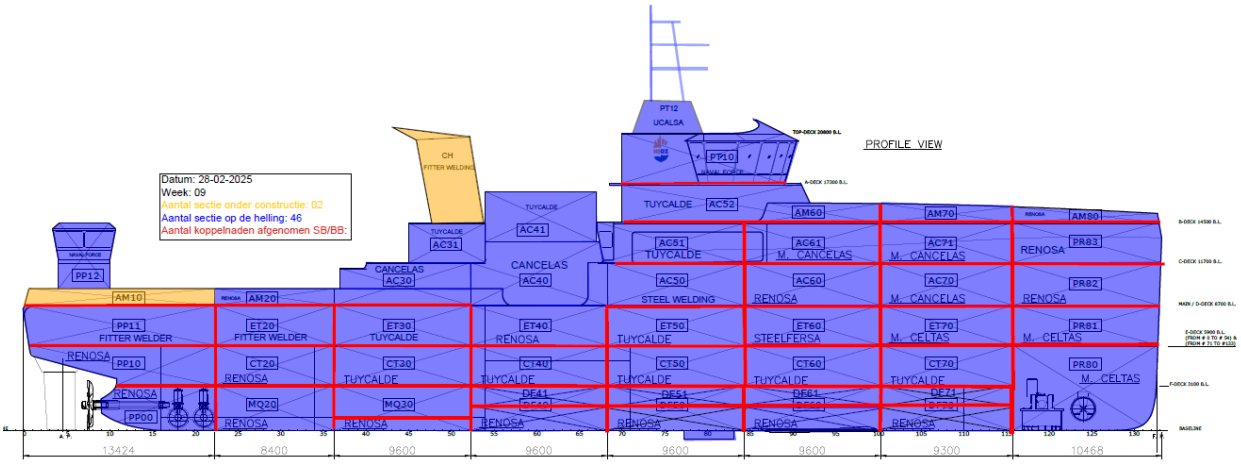
The shipyard has built a model cabin on the F-deck (science), showing the locations of the bulkheads, overheads and furnishings. The other cabins will be built and furnished in the same fashion.

The interiors and exteriors of the wheelhouse and cabins have been sandblasted, and the interiors have been painted. Once that work was complete, the shipyard began laying the cables and piping aboard the vessel. The yard also started sealing off the exterior portholes in preparation for making it wind- and watertight. Several finishing items are being installed on the exterior decks, such as the railings, gunwales, antenna mountings, hydraulic systems, etc. We have also examined the shipyard's preliminary design for the Marad maintenance system. This design will only need some minor changes as well. We have decided on the definitive design of the CTD hatch: a double hatch with hinges at the top and bottom, opening outwards..

Representatives from the shipyard, classification society, flag registry, and suppliers came to the shipyard in March for the HAZID meeting.

PROJECT STATUS

The shipyard is almost finished manufacturing the sections. The sections highlighted in yellow below are currently in production throughout the yard. The other sections are all complete and in their proper location. The sections shown in purple have already been added to the hull, and the red lines show the welded seams between the sections that the NIOZ has inspected and approved. Work on the project has shifted towards installing components.



The photos below show the current state of affairs on board the vessel.

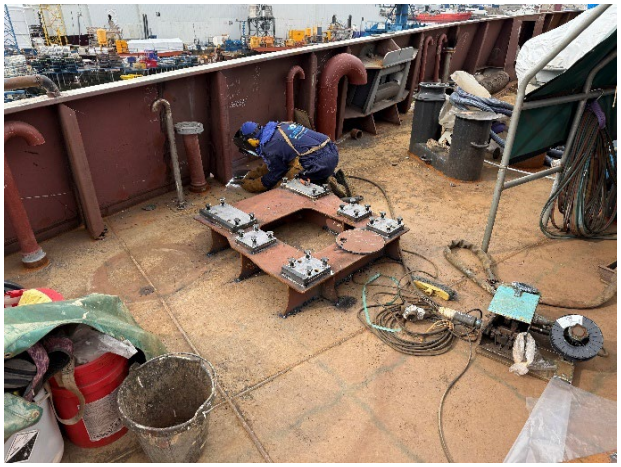
Starboard view

CTD hatch, now used as temporary entrance

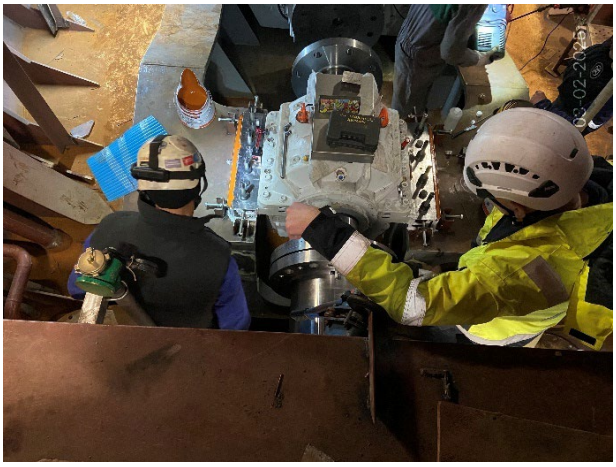
Finishing details

Bow mast

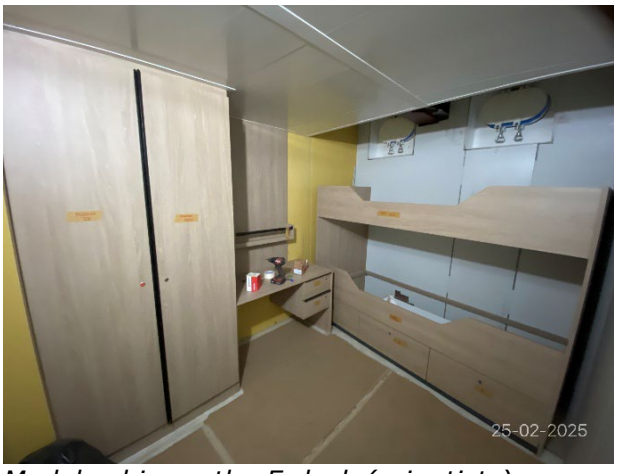
Science winches delivered



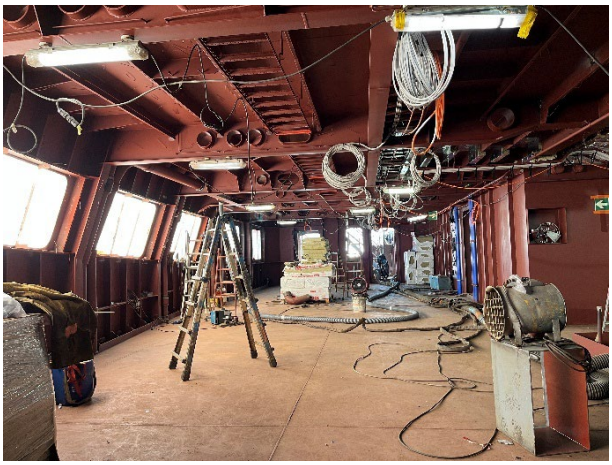
Anchor capstan mounting installed

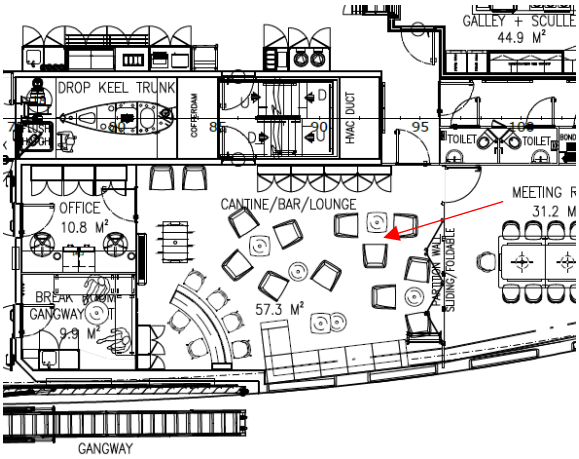



NIOZ inspection of the thrust bearing casting and the two stern thrusters

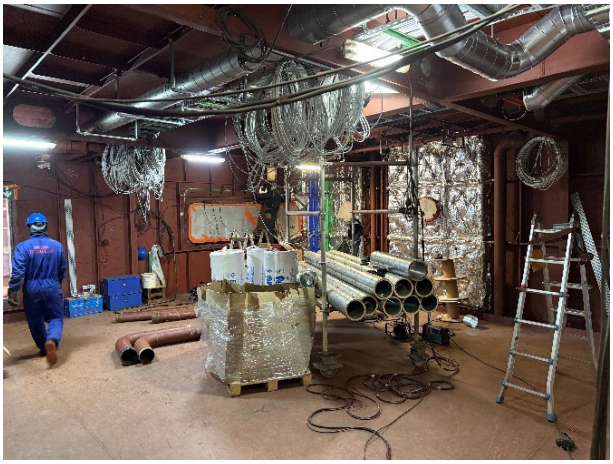


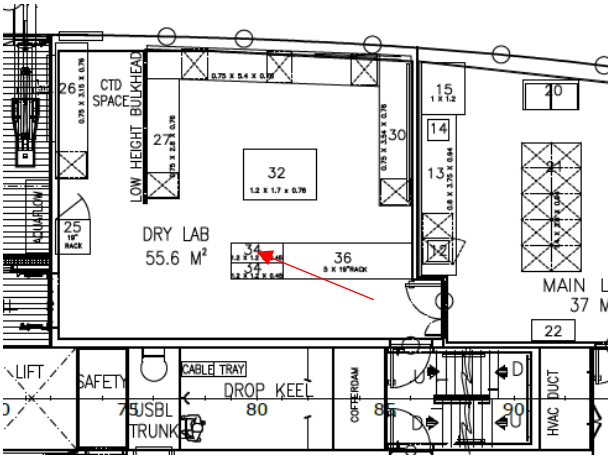
Model cabin on the F-deck (scientists).





Work on the C-deck (lounge / break room / office)



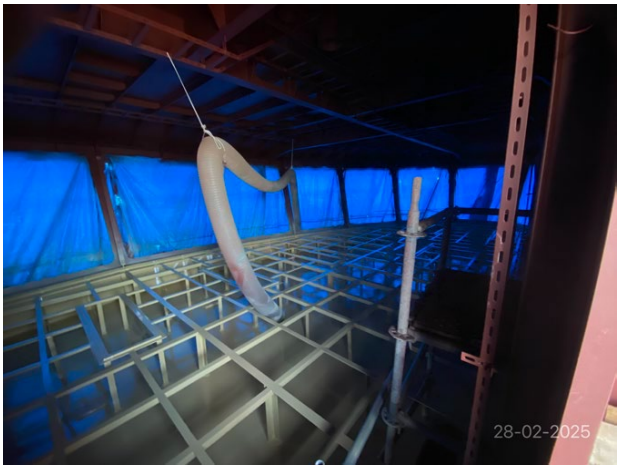


Work on the D-deck (dry lab)


Pumps located in the engine room and bow thruster room.

Sandblasting and painting the provisions hold

Preparations for birdwatching station



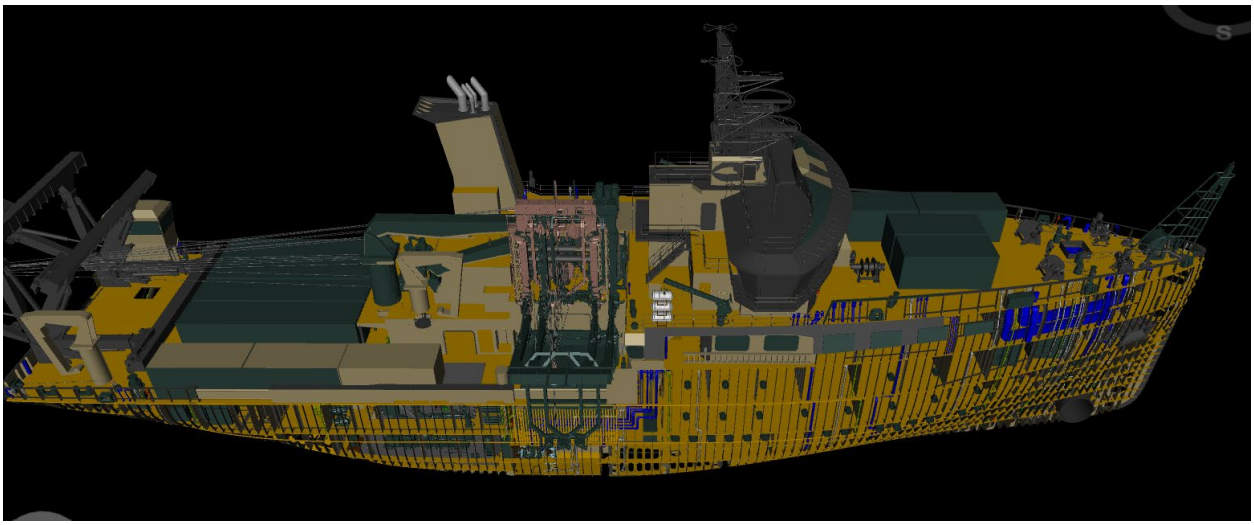
Wheelhouse sandblasted and painted

The shipyard and subcontractors are hard at work finishing the hull. A team of around 140 people working on board are doing a good job. They include pipefitters, ironworkers, welders, insulators, cable layers, carpenters, etc.

A large staff of subcontractors are laying the cables, installing drainage pipes, water lines and HVAC ducts in the cabins. All of the engineering work for the GRE seawater piping system in the engine room and forecastle is complete, and these components are now under production by an external partner. The components are expected to be delivered to the yard for installation in late May or early June.

The two subcontractors responsible for hydraulics have started installing the on-board hydraulics systems. One will connect the watertight exterior hatches. The other will install the hydraulics for all the cranes, scientific frames and the unit that operates the frames.

Representatives from the NIOZ met with the shipyard electrician to decide on the locations for the power outlets in the work decks and technical spaces. We also consulted with the crew and the NMF to discuss the connections and integration with the shore power supply. And we visited SOLEM to take delivery of the pump starter units.



Current status of the 3D model

SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

In weeks 11 and 12, a team from the NIOZ visited the yard again for the scheduled six-week meeting. The NIOZ executive board also visited the shipyard in week 11 for a general project update. The Captain and Chief Machinist of the RV *Pelagia* visited the yard in week 12 to conduct an on-board inspection and to join the site team for the HAZID meeting for the methanol system. Several representatives from the Dutch flag registry, Bureau Veritas and the shipyard also attended the meeting.

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