



## **The European Union is scaling up investments in innovative technologies to achieve zero-emission waterborne transport**

The Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the selection of waterborne transport projects in the framework of the EU Innovation Fund

Brussels, 28 July 2021

On 27 July, the European Commission [published the first wave of projects selected](#) in the framework of the [EU Innovation Fund](#). In total, the European Union is investing €118 million into 32 small innovative projects located in 14 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. The grants will support projects aiming to bring low-carbon technologies to the market in energy intensive industries, hydrogen, energy storage and renewable energy. In addition to these grants, 15 projects located in 10 EU Member States and Norway will benefit from project development assistance worth up to €4.4 million, with the aim of advancing their maturity. Projects from the waterborne transport sector have been selected for funding for both categories.

The EU Innovation Fund is one of the world's largest funding programmes for the demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies. The ultimate objective of this programme is to assist businesses to invest in clean energy and industry to boost economic growth, create local future-proof jobs and reinforce European technological leadership on a global scale. This is done through calls for large and small-scale projects focusing on: 1) innovative low-carbon technologies and processes in energy-intensive industries; 2) including products substituting carbon-intensive ones carbon capture and utilisation (CCU); 3) construction and operation of carbon capture and storage (CCS); 4) innovative renewable energy generation; 5) energy storage. The waterborne transport projects selected for funding and/or project development assistance focus on electric propulsion for a ferry, low-carbon bio liquified natural gas (bio-LNG) for maritime transport, as well as wind assisted propulsion for a cruise ship and the use of green hydrogen from renewables sources for a zero-emission vessel.

*The Chairman of the Waterborne Technology Platform, Henk Prins, said "the Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes the selection of the waterborne transport projects in the first wave of calls for proposals in the framework of the EU Innovation Fund. The possibilities offered by the Innovation Fund are extremely relevant for the transition towards zero-emission waterborne transport, since it offers support for the deployment of innovative technologies. These innovative technologies have reached a technological maturity, but are often not mature yet from a financial perspective. Thereby, the Innovation Fund is key to deploy the technologies resulting from Research, Development and Innovation, more specifically in the framework of the [Co-Programmed Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport](#) under Horizon Europe. Combining Research, Development and Innovation efforts with support for the deployment of innovative technologies, will offer Europe the possibility to be a frontrunner in the transition to zero-emission waterborne transport".*



**WATERBORNE TP** has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between all waterborne stakeholders, such as classification societies, shipbuilders, shipowners, maritime equipment manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, universities or research institutes, and with the EU Institutions, including Member States ([www.waterborne.eu](http://www.waterborne.eu)). The members of Waterborne TP comprise members as well as associated members from both maritime and inland navigation countries, representing about 18 Member States. In addition, the Associations member of the Waterborne Technology Platform represent the broader waterborne sector throughout the entire EU.

Enquiries concerning how to join and become more closely involved in the “Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport” partnership or other activities of the Waterborne TP can be sent to: Jaap Gebraad, Executive-director Waterborne TP, [jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu](mailto:jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu), tel: +32 493 835 626