



Waterborne Days: Together towards a resilient, competitive and sustainable future

Waterborne Days Conference highlighted the commitment of the different segments of the waterborne sector and the key role of research, development, innovation and the deployment of innovation to jointly shape the future

Brussels, 11 February 2025

The [Waterborne Days 2025](#), an interactive two-day conference, brought together the European waterborne sector to present the long-term initiatives of the Waterborne Technology Platform and, celebrate its 20th anniversary. More than 300 delegates attended the event, showcasing results of European projects and discussing the future research, development and innovation needs of the European waterborne sector, including the deployment of innovations.

During the two-day event, leaders from the waterborne sector, representatives of different European Commission Services, EU Member States and countries associated to Horizon Europe came together to boost innovation and deployment, addressing the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transition.

Discussions covered six different thematic panel debates focused on different ship types, providing a comprehensive overview on the developments in the waterborne sector. In addition, the stakeholders engaged in different workshops, among others on “sustainable alternative fuels for waterborne transport”, “funding and financing for the European waterborne sector” and interactive sessions concerning the upcoming “industrial maritime (and inland waterway transport) strategy and the “port strategy”. The importance of coordinating efforts between industry, governments and other stakeholders were emphasised throughout the event.

During the event, the Waterborne Awards 2025, organized by the Waterborne Technology Platform and the European Commission, recognised three outstanding European projects which have demonstrated significant impact, innovation, and market readiness. The three winners were selected by a panel of judges comprising industry and institutional judges.

The winners of the awards are:

- Environmental impact and climate change: [Engimmonia](#) – The EU funded Engimmonia project is at the forefront of revolutionizing the maritime industry by significantly reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. By delving deep into the intricacies of ammonia combustion, the project is paving the way for its seamless integration into ship engines, powering both propulsion and onboard power generation. This groundbreaking approach holds the potential to drastically reduce CO₂ emissions from the current levels to a remarkable zero;
- Innovation: [SHYpS](#) – the EU funded SHYpS project is supporting the integration of a hydrogen-based fuel cell system on board of multiple types of vessels. Researchers aim to design a hydrogen plant to ensure safe handling, containment and usage of the fuel on board. Project activities are an important step towards transitioning the maritime industry away from fossil fuels.
- Economic Viability: [Mari4_Yard](#) – the EU-funded Mari4_YARD project leveraged the potential of the Internet of things (IoT), mobile and ubiquitous ICT tools, and robotics for implementing a novel connected shipyard, offering the European shipbuilding the opportunity to stay at the



leading edge. Specifically, the project implemented a portfolio of worker-centric solutions by relying on novel collaborative robotics and ubiquitous portable solutions.

- Outstanding innovation: [Engimmonia](#) – the EU-funded project Engimmonia focuses on the implementation of the innovative technology on board of different ship types. This provides the opportunity for deep GHG-emissions reductions as well reduction of other pollutants.

Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne Technology Platform, said: *“The second edition of the Waterborne Days showcased the commitment of all stakeholders of the European waterborne sector to develop and deploy technologies. Furthermore, it was concluded that to timely meet policy objectives, increased efforts in research, development and innovation, as well as the deployment of innovations will be key. Further building upon the activities of the last years, a “team Europe” approach will remain critical to set course towards a resilient, competitive and sustainable future.”*

Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General, Waterborne Technology Platform, added: *“Research, development and innovation delivering results which can be deployed in practice, will remain key. The winners of the Waterborne Awards, co-financed by the European Union, have shown significant potential for market uptake, thereby facilitating the achievement of policy objectives. However, further RD&I at lower technology readiness level will remain essential to develop groundbreaking solutions. In 2025, we continue paving the way for a coordinated approach, building upon the strengths of the European waterborne sector, and turning opportunities into practice.”*

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). 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, Secretary General Waterborne TP, jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu, tel: +32 493 835 626