

Concarneau, 12 January 2022

PIRIOU sign contract with TOWT for the construction of the first sailing cargo ship which is 81m in length



©PIRIOU - 3D image of the future TOWT sailing cargo ship

PIRIOU have just signed a contract with TOWT for the design studies and the construction of an 81-metre sailing cargo ship whose goods capacity will be 1,100 tonnes in a single ocean crossing. After the design studies phase, the ship construction will take 18 months. This unit will be outfitted in Concarneau and the launch is planned for summer 2023.

The ship is designed for 320 days at sea per year. Navigation is principally sail-powered, but the ship also has a hybrid power mode, with one or two engines operating, at different levels of power. The ship will be designed and built with wind as the principal power source, with a sail rigging spread over two masts. In addition to its wind propulsion, it is equipped with two turbocharged 4-stroke marine diesel engines. On the bridge, there will be a single command station and its ergonomics will allow the officer of the watch to carry out all the commands and course adjustment operations, excluding manoeuvres, alone.

The ship and all its equipment will comply with the regulations on cargo vessels performing international trips and will comply with the regulations relating to cargo vessels with a gross register tonnage greater than 500 UMS.

Vincent Faujour, Chairman of the PIRIOU group declared: "A few weeks after announcing the signing of a contract for the construction of Jean-Louis Etienne's sailboat "Septième Continent", Piriou is proving that the shipyard is at the forefront of innovation regarding the progress of sailing technologies and the decarbonization of maritime transport".

Guillaume Le Grand, Chairman of TOWT-Transport wind transport, added: "Today, TOWT is going further by ordering a ship from Piriou that will make it possible to massify its environmental impact by transporting up to 20,000 tonnes of goods per year by sail power. The sailing cargo ship, which will be completed by PIRIOU Shipyard in 2023, will make it possible to reduce CO2 emissions by more than 90% and to economise 20 g of CO2 per tonne transported per kilometre. It will therefore save 3,000 tonnes of CO2 per year. In addition to the carbon savings, principally wind-powered propulsion will allow a significant reduction in the air pollution caused by the heavy fuel oil generally used by merchant ships. "



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Main characteristics

Hull length	69.00 m	Hull/superstructure:	Steel/aluminium
Overall length:	81.00 m	Sail power:	2 masts, 4 aluminium booms
Beam:	11.90 m	Sail area (2 main sails, 2 jibs, 1 Genoa jib):	2,500 m ²
Depth at main deck:	8.65 m	Engine power:	2 x 422 kWm at 1790 rpm
Maximum draught (moulded)	6.00 m	1 bow thruster	
Air draught	64.00 m	Generator sets	2 x 250 kVA
Crew:	7 to 12 p max	Cranes for pallet holds	2 x 7.5 t at 4.5m
Passenger capacity (6 double cabins)	12 p.	Freight capacity (1,000 to 1,100 tonnes in bulk on pallets + 135 225-litre barrels of wine or spirits)	
Average speed. :	10.5 kts		
Maximum speed under sail	Over 16 kts		



About PIRIOU

Involved in shipbuilding, repair, naval engineering and services for 55 years, PIRIOU specializes in producing medium-sized vessels up to 120 m in length with high added value through a combination of high-performance engineering and a global network of industrial sites in Europe, Africa and Asia. With over 500 ships built and delivered worldwide, PIRIOU provides, on a global scale, bespoke solutions as well as a complete range of standardized or customized vessels that satisfy the requirements of international ship-owners, whether they be private or public, civilian or military. PIRIOU has the capacity to support ship-owners throughout the world, 24/7, to optimize the service time of their ships and offers maintenance-related services... PIRIOU also confirms its ability to innovate and contribute to answer the requirements of transport decarbonisation integrating hydrogen fuel cells, wind-powered merchant vessels, and hybrid vessels.

www.piriou.com

Press contact: Nadine ROLLAND | Tel.: +33(0)2-98-97-09-48 / communication@piriou.fr

About TOWT

Since 2011, TOWT has been transporting products under sail by chartering existing traditional sailing ships. More than 1,000 tons have been transported under sail on its own account and on behalf of a dozen shippers, developing a trading activity in the process and generating more than €1,000,000 in cumulative turnover over the period. TOWT created the ANEMOS label in 2017 to promote this truly decarbonised transport. It provides an immersive marketing lever of maritime transparency, enabling carbon reporting as well as story-telling of the trip. Today, ANEMOS has certified more than one million products. Convinced of the existence of a market and the need to change scale to accelerate the decarbonisation of the sector, TOWT has developed plans for a modern sailing cargo ship capable of carrying 1,100 tons of cargo and 12 passengers at an average speed of 10.5 knots.

Press contact: Louise Bigot | Tel.: +33 (0)9 84 33 89 62 | presse@towt.eu