

The logo for HYDROCONTEST features a stylized, three-dimensional wave or funnel shape in shades of light blue and teal. It is positioned to the left of the text.

# HYDROCONTEST

By ENSM

From September 20th to September 27th, 2025



FRENCH MARITIME ACADEMY

**ÉCOLE NATIONALE  
SUPÉRIEURE MARITIME**

[www.supmaritime.fr](http://www.supmaritime.fr)





# THE HYDROCONTEST PROJECT

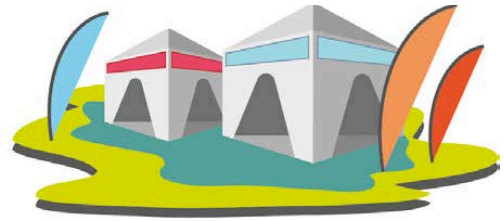
## & its key figures

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15000

VISITORS



1

RACE VILLAGE

1 EXCEPTIONAL VENUE



MARSEILLE CITY'S NAUTICAL STADIUM



10

NATIONALITIES



5

TEAMS



“

*The highlight of this week of meetings and learning, **the 4 nautical races**, which will be supervised by **Mr. Denis HOREAU**, the iconic race director of the “Vendée Globe”*

”



## THE WORD OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

*2025, designated as the 'Year of the Sea', will highlight, through numerous events, the importance of the oceans for our planet and raise public awareness of the environmental challenges they face.*

*The HydroContest By ENSM project must find its place in this strong commitment of our country. This exceptional international challenge aims to promote maritime excellence and bring together students and stakeholders from the maritime world around technical and environmental challenges. The goal is, above all, to find solutions for designing the ship of tomorrow*

*If you are passionate about environmental causes, technological challenges, and maritime innovation, join us in this adventure by supporting this international-scale event. Every idea counts in shaping, together, a cleaner and more promising maritime future.*

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### **Caroline PONS**

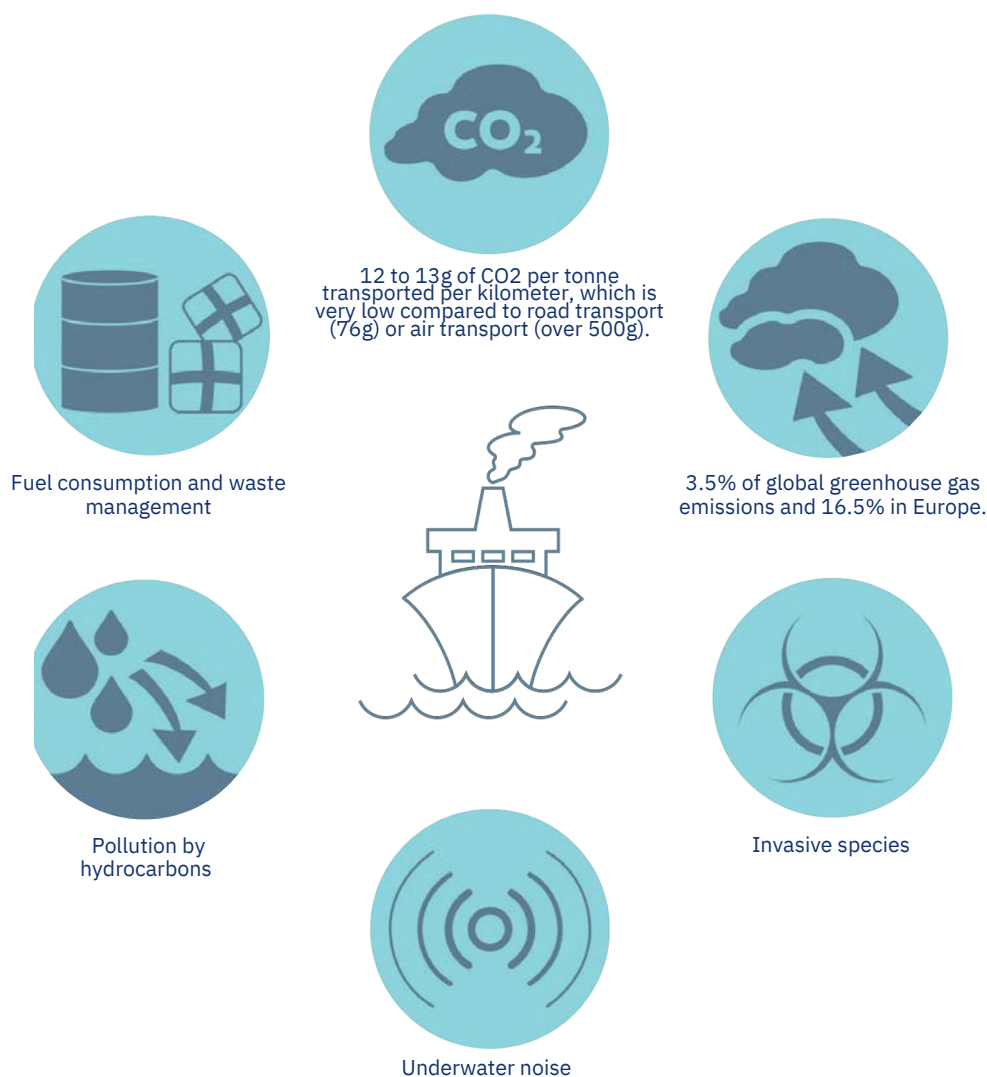
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# THE CHALLENGES OF MARITIME TRANSPORT

Maritime transport represents a major environmental challenge. Although it emits less CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne transported than other modes of transport, it is responsible for 3,5% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to its scale

Indeed, the volume of goods transported by sea has quadrupled since the 1970s, reaching 13 billion tonnes in 2023.

In this context, maritime industry stakeholders must prepare for the future by focusing on the energy transition, an urgent necessity for the industry.



# PROJECT PRESENTATION

## A SYMBOL OF MARITIME INNOVATION

HydroContest by ENSM is, first and foremost, an **international student competition** where teams from around the world compete and collaborate by designing, building, and piloting ship prototypes. These prototypes must adhere to a strict set of specifications and an eco-design charter, aiming to develop more sustainable solutions in the maritime industry.



HydroContest by ENSM is also a **student hackathon** dedicated to exploring the retrofit of an existing vessel. Its goal is to encourage the development of innovative and practical solutions to address sustainability and technological innovation challenges in the maritime industry—without requiring the construction of a prototype. In collaboration with a shipping company, participants will work on a real vessel to optimize its energy efficiency while ensuring compliance with current regulations.

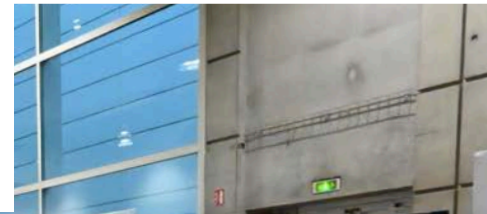


HydroContest by ENSM is an incredible adventure that I highly recommend to everyone. This challenge allows participants to explore many aspects of a vessel. There is something for everyone—whether you are passionate about innovation, 3D design, calculations, economics, welding, or composite lamination, you will find your place and develop your skills. On a personal level, this experience allowed me to discover materials that are rarely studied at ENSM but are widely used in the maritime industry. It also helped me develop my skills in design and fluid-structure interaction. The strong team spirit surrounding this project creates lasting bonds that will stay with you throughout your life.

**Vivien LUTHY**  
ENSM Participant  
2016 Edition



# HydroContest By ENSM



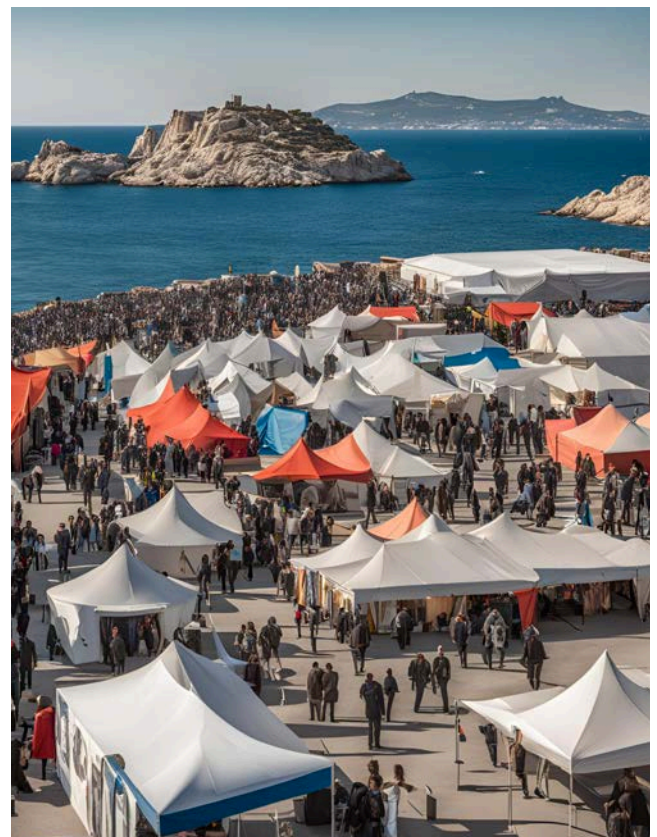
## A PLACE OF SYNERGY

**HydroContest by ENSM** also includes **Hydro Blue Tech, a professional exhibition** dedicated to advancements in maritime transport in response to today's challenges. The event features demonstrations, interactive exhibits, partner stands, and conferences led by industry experts.

A coworking and networking space is also available to foster exchanges between various maritime sector stakeholders, including professionals, researchers, engineers, entrepreneurs, and students.

**HydroContest by ENSM** places **the general public at the heart of the event**, highlighting its commitment to maritime innovation. As they explore the village, designed as a true maritime agora, visitors will discover numerous initiatives from a rapidly evolving industry.

Special attention is given to students through partnerships with educational institutions, aiming to raise awareness among young people about key challenges such as decarbonization, ocean preservation, and environmental protection.



### MARITIME INNOVATION

HydroContest by ENSM is an event bringing together students, professionals, and the general public around innovation, engineering, and knowledge sharing. Its primary goal is to rethink and enhance the energy efficiency of maritime transport.



# THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 2025 EDITION

HydroContest By ENSM, a must-attend event taking place from September 20 to 27, 2025, is an international student competition focused on energy efficiency. This contest brings together student teams from all over the world, and since its first edition in 2014, teams from ENSM have been actively participating.

## A SYMBOL OF MARITIME INNOVATION

**Eco-responsible maritime innovation :** Encourage the development of innovative and concrete solutions to ensure sustainable, environmentally-friendly maritime transport

**Priority given to reducing energy consumption :** Make the reduction of energy consumption a key focus in all the competitions organized.

**Éco-design :** Establish an eco-design charter that each team must incorporate into their projects, thus promoting sustainable practices.

**Open to a wide audience :** An event involving student teams and professionals from the sector while raising public awareness about the ecological transition challenges in the maritime transport sector, through an educational and inclusive village

**Connecting stakeholders :** Create opportunities for exchange and collaboration between students, professionals, industrialists, and researchers to stimulate the creation of synergies, strategic partnerships, and innovative projects around the ecological transition.



**Raising awareness among younger generations :** Organize workshops and educational events for schoolchildren and students to introduce them to the challenges of sustainable maritime transport, technological innovation, and ocean conservation.



Participation in the HydroContest By ENSM project is an incredibly rich experience in both technical and human exchanges. It transforms the teacher-student relationship from a 'work' dynamic to a 'constructive exchange,' which is particularly effective and mutually enriching, extending to extra-curricular partners (technical and financial partners). Each new edition allows us to (re)discover and showcase a variety of technical solutions while expanding the number of our partners. It is an experience as diverse as it is full of valuable lessons.

**Frédéric SPELLIERS**

EEA Teacher – Initiator of the project for ENSM Marseille in June 2013, then project leader until June 2016.



## A COMMITTED PROJECT

HydroContest By ENSM embodies a commitment from future international engineers and decision-makers towards the environment and highlighting maritime careers. This innovative initiative merges technology, innovation, and environmental awareness to shape the future of navigation.

## FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

ENSM has identified the structures potentially interested in the project. Around forty French and international engineering schools and maritime academies have already been identified and contacted starting from mid-May 2024. More than twenty have confirmed their participation, with 6 teams set to start in the 2025 edition, and an additional fifteen teams expected in 2026.

An international competition organized by ENSM will support its strategy for visibility and reputation through increased exposure, attracting students, and expanding its networks. This will be achieved both through new connections made possible by the event and by strengthening joint projects with our current partners.

Furthermore, HydroContest will be one of the drivers promoting the international recognition of research and, consequently, developing this activity for our teachers and students.

**Gersende LE DIMNA**  
Head of International Relations and Academic Partnerships



- **le Pôle Mer Méditerranée**
- **Engaged For Ocean**
- **La Mer en Commun**



## CONCRETE ACTIONS

HydroContest by ENSM's commitment goes beyond setting up a village. Upstream, a vast awareness campaign involving schools, associations, and local stakeholders is carried out. This initiative aims to raise awareness about the crucial challenges of sustainable maritime transport and ocean preservation. Through concrete projects, younger generations and citizens are actively involved in educational and participatory initiatives. Educational workshops, meetings with experts, and field actions help strengthen understanding of the environmental challenges linked to the maritime sector. HydroContest by ENSM thus becomes a catalyst for uniting the community around a shared vision of a more environmentally friendly maritime future.



**Nathalie Mercier-Perrin**  
Executive President of the  
French Maritime Cluster

## A TRUE CATALYST FOR INNOVATION

“ As the Executive President of the French Maritime Cluster, I am particularly excited to support the 2025 edition of HydroContest by ENSM in Marseille.

This event is much more than just a competition; it is a true catalyst for innovation in our sector. By bringing together the best student talents from around the world, HydroContest by ENSM provides us with a concrete glimpse into the future of navigation. Each year, the projects presented showcase remarkable creativity and ingenuity, reminding us that solutions to the environmental challenges of maritime transport are well within our reach.

Additionally, for the first time, the HydroContest by ENSM Village will unite the initiatives of major corporations and SMEs for decarbonized transport and present them to the public—a tremendous step forward. By supporting this initiative, we reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable sea and contribute to shaping the future leaders of an evolving maritime industry.

Let us all join HydroContest by ENSM 2025 to support these young talents and accelerate the ecological transition of our sector! ”



## THE WORD OF SIMON BERNARD

**Co-founder of the Plastic Odyssey Organization and Ambassador of the 2025 Edition of HydroContest By ENSM**

*Participating in the first edition of HydroContest in 2014 and winning the Innovation Award with my team was a transformative experience. It marked a turning point in my journey and undoubtedly contributed to the success of the Plastic Odyssey adventure.*

*Much more than a technical challenge, it is a window into entrepreneurship, teamwork, and the full complexity of engineering and naval architecture. This experience convinced me that the best way to learn is to be at the heart of the action, actively seeking solutions oneself.*

*HydroContest also allowed ENSM to gain international visibility and forge strong connections between universities from around the world. This adventure was a true springboard for me, inspiring me to embark on a journey of entrepreneurship and innovation to protect our oceans.*

*I am deeply grateful for this experience and fully support the new edition of HydroContest By ENSM, confident that it will continue to inspire and encourage new vocations.*





## THE WORD OF MORGANE SUQUART

**Co-founder of MMPROCESS Composite Design Technology  
and Ambassador of the 2025 Edition of HydroContest By  
ENSM**

*I stand proudly alongside the stakeholders of this adventure, which is not only a major sporting and technical challenge but also a true carrier of positive values, a model of determination, innovation, and environmental respect.*

*To the public, this event will represent far more than a series of competitions. It will reflect a collective commitment to innovation, ecological transition, and solidarity. It will offer an immersive, educational, and inspiring experience where every participant can feel like an active contributor to this ambitious adventure. It will be a powerful moment, a symbol of unity between generations and skills, highlighting the growing importance of eco-responsibility in the maritime sector.*

*Being the patroness of the first edition of HydroContest By ENSM, having once walked the halls of Hydro myself, is both a personal and professional recognition. Contributing to a project that embodies creativity, research, and technical achievements while upholding the values of a sustainable future fills me with pride. It is an honor to serve as an ambassador for values close to my heart and to support younger generations in their journey toward excellence.*

# WHO ARE WE?

## L'ENSM

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The Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime (ENSM) is the historic training institution for Merchant Navy officers. For several years now, it has also been training maritime engineering professionals. With courses offered across its four campuses in Le Havre, Marseille, Nantes, and Saint-Malo, ENSM's high-quality education encompasses all aspects of navigation, operations, and maritime safety.

The programs are enriched by professional experiences through internships at sea, placements, and the numerous partnerships ENSM develops both in France and internationally, fostering practical learning and the continuous training of its students.

ENSM openly promotes a team spirit and the impact of its initiatives across all its campuses and throughout the country. Through communication efforts linked to culture, sports, and the arts, it strives to "build a school" that resonates beyond its core mission.



# THE ADVANTAGES OF THE PROJECT

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## MARSEILLE, A PIONEER IN SUSTAINABLE MARITIME INNOVATION

**Promotion de l'innovation maritime durable:** HydroContest By ENSM met en lumière les efforts déployés par la ville de Marseille pour soutenir la décarbonation du secteur maritime, en encourageant des solutions respectueuses de l'environnement.

**Promoting Sustainable Maritime Innovation:** HydroContest By ENSM highlights Marseille's efforts to support the decarbonization of the maritime sector by encouraging environmentally friendly solutions.

**Appui à l'innovation locale :** En mettant en avant les entreprises innovantes, HydroContest By ENSM démontre le dynamisme économique local et renforce l'attractivité de la région auprès des industries maritimes.

**Support for Local Innovation:** By showcasing innovative companies, HydroContest By ENSM highlights the region's economic vitality and enhances its appeal to the maritime industries.

**Inspiring Careers in the Maritime Sector:** HydroContest By ENSM aims to encourage young people to explore the diverse career opportunities in the maritime industry. In partnership with various specialized organizations, it seeks to enhance the appeal of maritime professions and strengthen interest in careers at sea.

**Development of Sustainable Maritime Solutions:** By fostering the creation of innovative and sustainable solutions, HydroContest By ENSM contributes to the transition toward a more environmentally friendly maritime sector.

**Unity Between Marseille and the Sea:** The event strengthens the historic and cultural bond between the city and its marine environment, making the sea a central element of "Marseillais" daily life. This connection is especially highlighted by the use of an iconic venue, such as the Marseille Nautical Stadium at the foot of the Corniche Kennedy.

**Promoting an Ecological Culture:** The event raises awareness among participants and the general public about environmental issues in the maritime sector. This is achieved through outreach in schools and associations beforehand and interactive activities at the village, designed to inform and engage the community on the importance of preserving marine ecosystems.



# THE ENSM FOUNDATION



## A FOUNDATION, FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

The two missions of the Foundation, as determined by the Management Board, are:

- The funding of actions identified within a defined framework, planned and promoted for the benefit of recipients.
- The incubation of innovative projects with the potential to generate new revenue streams.

## A FOUNDATION TO HELP WHOM?

The Foundation operates under statutes that guide its actions around specific themes approved by the ENSM Board of Directors:

- Enhancing the appeal of careers in the sector.
- Social promotion.
- Research and Development
- International Outreach



**Colomban MONNIER**  
President of the ENSM  
Foundation

## HYDROCONTEST UNVEILS THE BRILLIANCE OF OUR YOUNG GENERATIONS

In tune with society's quest for solutions to a healthy transition, the event offers future engineers an international-scale challenge and a noble objective.

For HydroContest's private and public partners, it is an opportunity to contribute to the emergence of unique profiles and the development of groundbreaking proofs of concept, driven by the creative energy of the competition.

We envision HydroContest as an epiphany for both participants and partners, who will play an active role and bear witness to the creation of new opportunities for sustainable development in the maritime world.

## MEMBRES FONDATEURS





# THE ORGANIZING TEAM

THE HYDROCONTEST TEAM INCLUDES:

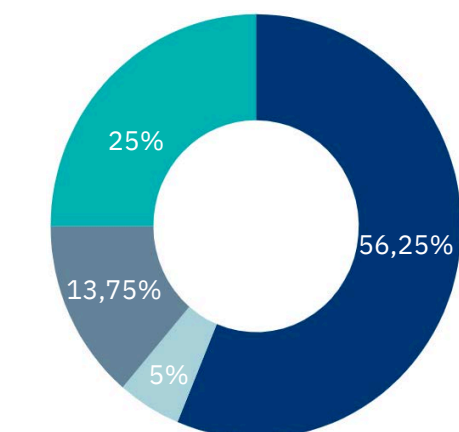
- ENSM staff members, including teachers and administrative personnel
- Professionals specialized in organizing large-scale public events
- Volunteers responsible for managing on-site logistics throughout the competition

All these individuals are coordinated by a project manager, whose responsibility is to ensure the success of the event, highlight the contributions of the involved partners, and ensure an enjoyable experience for participants. The team also benefits from the support of local authorities, institutional stakeholders, representatives from the Foundation's management board, and its founding members.

# ESTIMATED BUDGET

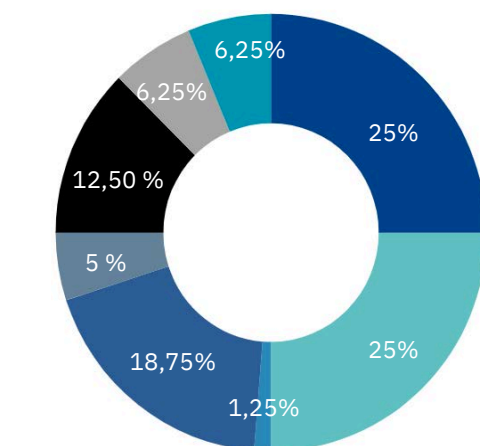
TOTAL BUDGET: €300,000

REVENUES



- Foundation Endowment
- Fund Contributions
- Expected Public Support (FIM)
- Partners (Patrons, Sponsors)

EXPENSES\*



- Event
- Supplies
- Eco-Design Charter
- Communication
- Race village organization \*\*
- Involved Personnel (excluding ENSM)
- Transport and Logistics
- Accommodation and Meals

Nota :

\* These are estimated expenses; the rental cost of the intended venue for the competition has not yet been determined.

\*\* The organization of the village is an estimate currently under discussion.



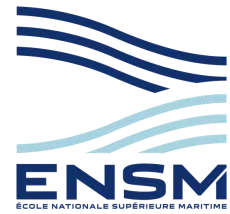
# HYDROCONTEST

By ENSM



# MINISTÈRE CHARGÉ DE LA MER ET DE LA PÊCHE

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



An initiative supported by the State through the Maritime Intervention Fund (FIM), operated by the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries, and Aquaculture (DGAMPA).

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# HYDROCONTEST

By ENSM

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