



Le Commandant-Charcot enters the final straight of its construction



Le Commandant-Charcot, PONANT's forthcoming hybrid electric-LNG (liquefied natural gas) polar exploration vessel, has arrived in Saint-Nazaire to be fitted with its propulsion systems.

After being fitted out in the Norwegian shipyard of the Vard company in Søviknes, *Le Commandant-Charcot* arrived on Tuesday 21 July in Saint-Nazaire, to be placed in the Joubert dry dock. The work to fit the propulsion systems has been entrusted to the naval department of Eiffage Énergie Systèmes-Clemessy Services. The two Azipod® ABB (Azimuthing electric podded drive) propulsors, which had been delivered in advance to the shipyard, are the electric motors driving five propeller blades, with the entire structure able to pivot 360°. They provide propulsion in all directions thus offering great manoeuvrability, particularly in the extreme polar regions where the ship will sail.

In parallel with this fitting work, the ship's hull will also be painted. *Le Commandant-Charcot* will then return to the Søviknes shipyard, where the fitting out will be completed, before delivery scheduled for 2021.

Equipped with 135 staterooms, *Le Commandant-Charcot* will be the first polar exploration vessel operating on a hybrid electric LNG system. This major innovation is testimony to the company's solid commitment to sustainable tourism with a minimal environmental impact.

PONANT has decided to make *Le Commandant-Charcot* available to the scientific community. As a "ship of opportunity," it will be fitted out with infrastructure (laboratories, staterooms) and materials at the disposal of scientists. In this way it will offer a unique platform for observation, research and analysis of the water, air, ice and biodiversity in these extreme polar regions.

With *Le Commandant-Charcot*, PONANT continues to consolidate its polar expertise, drawing on 20 years of experience, and remaining loyal to its philosophy. It will allow the company to maintain reasoned activity, in compliance with its commitments to the IAATO, AECO and Cercle Polaire associations, with unique landing protocols and itineraries to preserved sites that are only accessible to limited capacity vessels.

ABOUT PONANT

Created in 1988, by officers of the French Merchant Navy, PONANT has created a new style of cruising, under the French flag, through a unique conception of sea travel and a commitment to promoting sustainable and responsible tourism. Accessing exceptional territories aboard yachts featuring refined design, on which the art of living and excellent cuisine take pride of place: such is the promise of a unique and authentic PONANT voyage.

The small size of its vessels, the medical infrastructure and teams on board and its protocols ensured that there were no cases of Covid-19 contamination in the PONANT fleet. To prepare for the resumption of its activity, PONANT is collaborating with the IHU (Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire) Méditerranée Infection of Marseilles one of the world's leading centres in the field of infectious diseases, as well as the Bataillon des Marins-Pompiers de Marseille. The "Covid-Safe" protocol developed by PONANT is based on health standards that exceed international regulations. It is certified by the SAFEGUARD label of Bureau Veritas.

For more information, visit www.ponant.com

Press contacts | Laure Foulatier +33 (0)4 88 66 64 38 | Justine Fraticelli +33(0)4 88 91 35 56 | presse@ponant.com

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