



PONANT rewarded for its sound footprint



Le Jacques-Cartier, the latest sistership in the PONANT EXPLORER series, obtains the *Underwater Radiated Noise - Controlled* rating issued by Bureau Veritas. A distinction that once again rewards PONANT's commitment to environmental conservation, this time more specifically concerning underwater environments.

Bureau Veritas, the world leader in testing, inspection and certification, has set up an underwater noise rating system. It measures the "acoustic sound signature" of ships and evaluates their level compared to the noise threshold to manage and mitigate the impact on marine fauna.

Le Jacques-Cartier is one of the few cruise ships in the world to have obtained this certification, rewarding the state-of-the-art design in terms of environmental preservation of the PONANT EXPLORERS series.

"We are very pleased to have received this certification rewarding the years of research and development dedicated to the creation of the PONANT EXPLORERS series. It perfectly illustrates PONANT's commitment to making environmental protection its priority right from the design stage of the ships." says Mathieu Petiteau, Director of Newbuilding, Research & Development at PONANT.

The sound tests were carried out last September off the coast of Morgat, in the Gulf of Morbihan. Using a measurement buoy in the form of a floating line with 3 hydrophones, Bureau Veritas experts with technical support from acoustic specialists Quiet Oceans analysed the sound radiation from *Le Jacques-Cartier* to assess the ship's metrics, that is to say her acoustic signature.

"Our approach promotes reliable data through a holistic and transparent process", says Eric Baudin, Head of the Measurement Department at Bureau Veritas. He adds, "The measurements take into account the environment in which they were carried out, allowing for a measurement specific to the vessel."

This rating was obtained for a period of 5 years at a maximum speed of 13 knots. It complements the Comfort 1 certification, already issued to the entire PONANT fleet by Bureau Veritas, which guarantees passengers the lowest possible noise impact level.

Proactive actions to combat underwater noise pollution

PONANT has equipped itself with the latest green technologies for the construction of its series of PONANT EXPLORERS sisterships and has chosen to take a proactive approach to limiting underwater noise pollution.

In 2017 the company supported the ECHO programme, an initiative taken by the Port of Vancouver. Its ships deliberately reduced their speed in an important feeding area for whales, in order to reduce underwater noise in this area. Since then, PONANT has extended these measures deciding to limit the average speed of all its vessels to 10 knots, regardless of the navigation zone, in order to protect underwater fauna.

PONANT has also contributed to the European collaborative research project AQUO, which studies the modelling of underwater noise. It highlights the impact of noise radiation linked to maritime transport on wildlife and has notably published recommendations for optimising the construction of future ships. This contribution continues with PIAQUO, an implementation project using the AQUO tools and approach.

ABOUT BUREAU VERITAS

Bureau Veritas is a world leader in laboratory testing, inspection and certification services. Created in 1828, the Group has more than 75,000 employees located in more than 1,500 offices and laboratories around the globe. Bureau Veritas helps its clients improve their performance by offering services and innovative solutions in order to ensure that their assets, products, infrastructure and processes meet standards and regulations in terms of quality, health and safety, environmental protection and social responsibility.

Bureau Veritas is listed on Euronext Paris and belongs to the Next 20 index.

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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.

In collaboration with the IHU (Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire) Méditerranée Infection of Marseilles, one of the world's leading centres in the field of infectious diseases, and Bureau Veritas, PONANT has developed a "Covid-safe" protocol based on health standards that exceed international regulations. [Discover PONANT health protocol](#)

For more information, visit www.ponant.com

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