



PONANT pioneers safety regulations in the polar regions



PONANT, an expert in navigation in polar regions for over two decades, recently organised the world's first international rescue exercise in a remote polar zone. During a trial voyage to the North Pole with its polar exploration vessel, *Le Commandant Charcot*, the company raised the bar again for maritime safety and standards in polar tourism.

The one-off on-site scenario was live-coordinated between Russia, Greenland, Iceland, Canada, the United States and Norway, as well as the PONANT teams aboard and in head office in Marseille. The exercise took place over a 24-hour period on the ice, during which the 67 participants had to set up a polar survival camp among other tasks. American and Canadian coastguards, and Norwegian Arctic rescue experts were also present as observers.

The objectives of the fictitious rescue exercise were to optimise the coordination between the region's international rescue centres, and conduct medical research and behavioural studies on participants to understand the impact of spending long periods of time on the ice. Conclusions are being shared with polar environment experts and will help the expedition cruise industry and rescue centres across the world to not only devise new safety strategies, but also improve their knowledge about the impacts of such a crisis situation.

For PONANT, the exercise was also an ideal opportunity to test all the rescue and safety equipment, particularly the Ice Cube, the group survival kit, the floating polar shelters and the survival suits. Developed and designed from scratch by the company, they currently exceed the existing safety criteria established by the tourism industry as well as the military.

With the tools developed by PONANT and the organisation of such a large-scale exercise, the company continues to set new standards of safety at sea, as well as pioneering new ways of exploration.

ABOUT PONANT

Founded 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. For more information, visit www.ponant.com

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