



HYDROCONTEST

By ENSM

April 28-30, 2026



HYDROCONTEST

By ENSM

Jeune Marine

Revue des Elèves et Officiers de la Marine Marchande



ÉCOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE MARITIME

HYDROCONTEST
By ENSM



PRESIDENT

Caroline PONS

In 2026, maritime France is more committed than ever to the energy transition, from offshore wind power to ship decarbonization and ocean protection.

It is precisely within this dynamic that HydroContest by ENSM finds its full legitimacy: an exceptional international challenge aimed at promoting maritime excellence and bringing together students, researchers, and industry players around technical and environmental challenges. Its objective is clear: to imagine and develop the solutions that will shape the ship of tomorrow.

If you care about environmental challenges, technological innovation, and the future of maritime, join us in this adventure by supporting this international-scale event.

Every idea matters in building together a cleaner, more sustainable, and more promising maritime future!

Caroline PONS

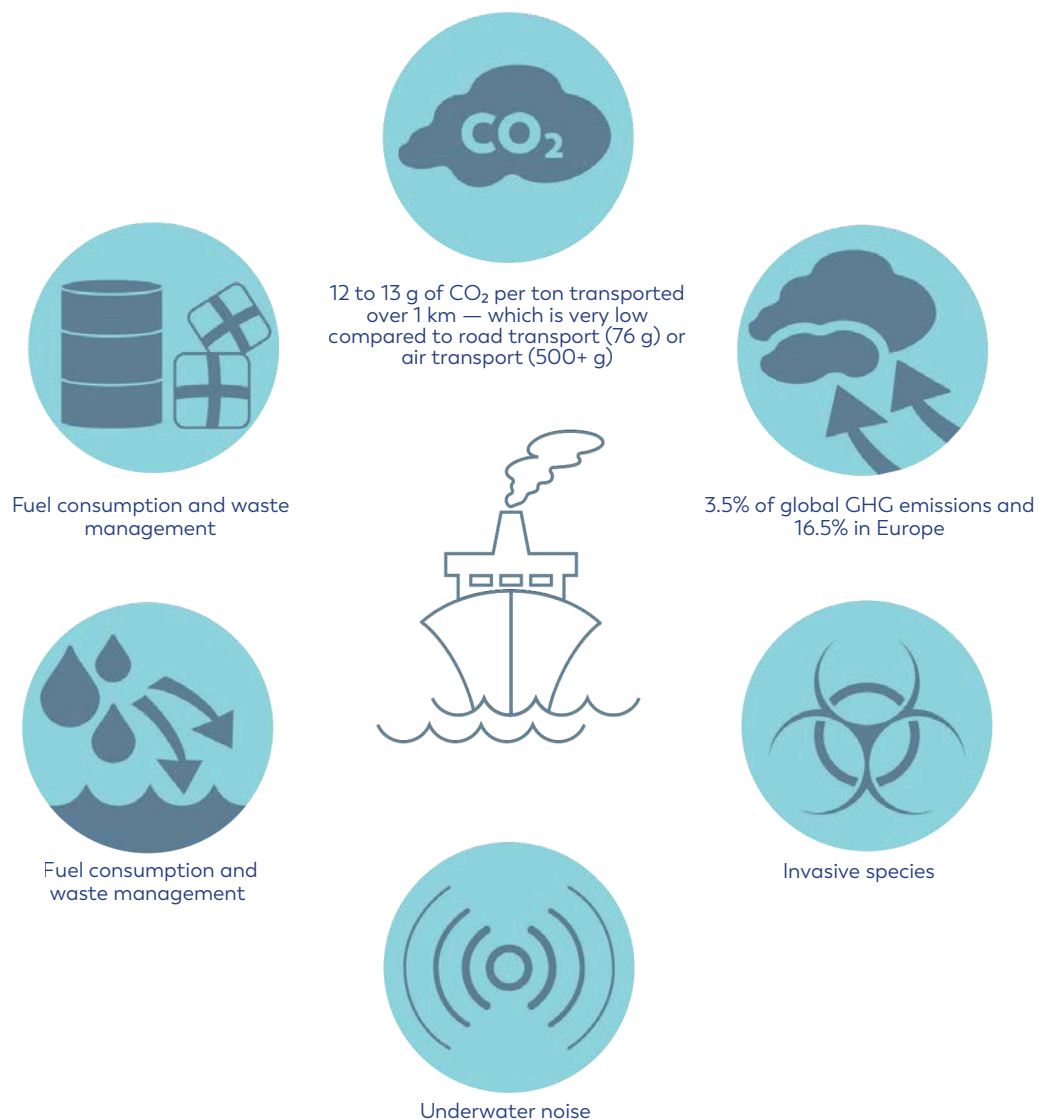
39 Avenue du Corail - 13008 Marseille
caroline.pons@supmaritime.fr

THE CHALLENGES OF MARITIME TRANSPORT

Maritime transport represents **a major environmental challenge**. Although it emits less CO₂ per ton 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 tons in 2023.

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



PROJECT INTRODUCTION



A BEACON OF MARITIME INNOVATION

©PIERRICKCONTIN

Dates: April 28–30, 2026

Venue: Stade Nautique Florence Arthaud,
Marseille



HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM is an **international event** bringing together students from higher education institutions around **the maritime energy transition**, through technical competitions and professional networking.

Led by the ENSM and the online magazine Jeune Marine, the HydroContest By ENSM association aims to showcase the excellence of French maritime education.

“

HydroContest By ENSM is a wonderful adventure that I recommend to everyone. Such a challenge allows you to explore many aspects of a ship.

There is something for everyone: those who want to innovate, do 3D design, perform calculations, work on economics, weld, or laminate will all find satisfaction. You will find your place here and develop your skills.

Personally, this experience allowed me to discover materials that are rarely studied at ENSM but are nonetheless present in the maritime sector, and to further develop my design abilities and fluid-structure interaction skills. The team spirit surrounding this project creates lasting bonds that will stay with you throughout your life.

Vivien LUTHY
Participant, ENSM
2016 Edition

”

A HUB OF SYNERGY

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2026 EDITION OBJECTIVES

A BEACON OF MARITIME INNOVATION

Four key pillars:

- **HYDROCONTEST *Design*** : an international competition challenging students to design, build, and pilot eco-efficient ship prototypes.
- **HYDROCONTEST *Retrofit Challenge*** : a challenge to enhance the energy efficiency of an existing CMA CGM ship (2026 edition).
- **HYDROCONTEST *Tech Days*** : round tables, activities, and a forum bringing together key players from the maritime sector.
- **HYDROCONTEST Set Course for the 'Maritime Pathways'** : A space dedicated to primary and secondary school pupils, to discover maritime professions and training, with a particular focus on the employment opportunities offered by the sector.

Who is it for?

- Students from international higher education institutions
- Industrial and institutional stakeholders
- School pupils (to inspire vocations and broaden recruitment into maritime education)
- General public (to open up the sector)
- Professional media



Participation in the HydroContest By ENSM project is an experience rich in both technical and human exchanges. It transforms the teacher-student relationship from mere 'work' into a constructive exchange, highly effective and mutually enriching, extending also to external partners (technical and financial). Each new edition provides an opportunity to (re)discover and present diverse technical solutions while expanding our network of partners. It is an experience as diverse as it is full of valuable lessons.

Frédéric SPELLIERS

EEA Teacher – Project initiator for ENSM Marseille in June 2013, then project leader until June 2016.



Why it works?

- Proven format (2014–2019, relaunched in 2026)
- Backed by a leading institution, ENSM, and a dynamic association
- Media visibility + local roots + educational dimension

TANGIBLE ACTIONS

The commitment of **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM** goes far beyond setting up a dedicated space. Upstream, **extensive awareness-raising efforts** involve schools, associations, and local stakeholders to build awareness of the challenges of sustainable maritime transport and ocean preservation.

Through concrete projects, educational workshops, meetings with experts, and field actions, younger generations and citizens are actively involved. **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM** thus positions itself as **a catalyst**, bringing the community together around a shared vision: a maritime future that respects the marine ecosystem.



Nathalie Mercier-Perrin
Executive President of the
French Maritime Cluster

A GENUINE CATALYST FOR INNOVATION

“As Executive President of the French Maritime Cluster, I am particularly enthusiastic about the 2026 edition of **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM** in Marseille.

This event is much more than 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** offers us **a concrete glimpse into the future of navigation**. Each year, the projects presented demonstrate remarkable creativity and ingenuity, reminding us that the solutions to the environmental challenges of maritime transport are truly within our reach.

Moreover, **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM** will, for the first time, bring together the initiatives of major groups and SMEs for decarbonized shipping 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 training the future leaders of a maritime industry in full transformation.

Let us all join **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM 2026** to encourage these young talents and accelerate the ecological transition of our sector!”

THE CREW

HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM 2026



Caroline PONS
President

Merchant Navy Officer – Lecturer at ENSM – Maritime Affairs Administrator



Jean-Emmanuel SAUVÉ
Vice president

President of the Académie de Marine – Former President of Armateurs de France - Former CEO of PONANT



Jean-François SUHAS
Vice president

Maritime Pilot – President of Marseille Provence Cruise Association



Aymeric AVISSE
Vice President & Treasurer

Unlimited Master & Chief Engineer at BOLUDA France – President of Jeune Marine



Denis HOREAU
Race Director
Technical Advisor

Former iconic Director of the Vendée Globe – Maritime consultant – Skipper



Olivier DANIEL
Technical Advisor

Lecturer at ENSM – Former specialist in fleet & renewable energy investments at BOURBON



François ARNAUD d'AVITAYA
Technical Advisor

Physicist – Retired Professor, University of the Mediterranean (AMU) – Former Research Director at CINaM (CNRS) – Scientific Advisor.



Gaëlle HARDY
General Secretary

Media & Partnerships Coordinator, Jeune Marine – Coordinator, WISTA Le Havre @WISTA France.



AMBASSADOR MORGANE SUQUART

Co-founder of MMPROCESS Composite Design Technology
and Ambassador of the 2026 edition of **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM**

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

In the eyes of the public, this event will represent much 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 part of this ambitious adventure. It will be a defining moment, symbolizing unity across generations and skills, and highlighting the growing importance of eco-responsibility in the maritime sector.

*Being the patron of the first edition of **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM**, after having once been a student at Hydro myself, is both a personal and professional recognition. Contributing to a project that embodies creativity, research, and technical achievements, while carrying the values of a future respectful of our planet, fills me with pride. It is an honor to be the ambassador of values that are dear to me and to support younger generations on their path to excellence.*



AMBASSADOR SIMON BERNARD

Co-founder of Plastic Odyssey and Ambassador of the 2026 edition of **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM**

Taking part in the first HydroContest in 2014 and winning the Innovation Award with my team was a defining experience, a turning point in my journey that 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 naval engineering and architecture. This experience convinced me that the best way to learn is to be at the very heart of the action, searching for solutions yourself.

HydroContest has also allowed ENSM to gain international visibility and to build strong ties with universities from around the world. For me, this adventure was a real springboard, giving me the desire to undertake and innovate to protect our oceans.

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



HYDROCONTEST **DESIGN**

An international, hands-on, and committed competition

Since 2014, a simple idea has traveled the world: what if students became the architects of a cleaner, smarter, and bolder maritime future?

HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM was born from this vision, shared by engineers, seafarers, and educators. This one-of-a-kind international competition brings together schools and universities from around the world around **a common challenge** : to imagine, design, and operate an eco-designed vessel prototype capable of meeting the challenges of tomorrow's maritime transport.

HYDROCONTEST DESIGN, More than a competition — a launchpad!

Why take part?

- To take on a real innovation challenge in the service of the climate
- To experience a full project process from A to Z, from design to operation
- To live a collective, intercultural, and committed adventure
- To meet other enthusiasts, connect with industry professionals, and build your network

How to apply?

- Form a student team (minimum 3 members)
- Be enrolled in a higher education institution
- Accept the eco-design charter and take on the proposed challenge
- Registration is free of charge
- Registration form in Annex 1
- Once your registration is validated, you will receive the full competition rules

✉ For registration or inquiries :
hydrocontest@supmaritime.fr



HYDROCONTEST DESIGN 2026 Timeline

- Official launch: **September 15, 2025**
- Student registration: **September 15 – December 15***
- Final presentations and trials in Marseille: **April 28–30, 2026**

(Participation may take place in person or via videoconference, subject to the organizer's prior approval.)

Registration for HC is free of charge, and will follow the schedule below:

2025

- From September : contact between the organizer and the teams, followed by the organizer sending out a registration form.
- Upon receipt of the registration form signed by the institution's management, the organizer will send the registered teams the HC DESIGN 2026 Rules along with the Ship Eco-Design Charter.
- **December 15 >>** Deadline for the organizer to receive registration forms

* The sooner teams submit their completed and signed documents, the more time they will have to work on their project... and the greater their chances of success!

2026

- Deadline – **March 25** >> Each team must send to the Organizer:
 1. **A 2-minute video** showing the remotely operated vessel in action on the water (forward and reverse, course changes).
 2. **A technical description** of the vessel including all rating elements (design choices, propulsion chain, electronics, etc.).

The Organizer will provide additional regulatory instructions if necessary.



HYDROCONTEST

RETROFIT CHALLENGE



Transforming what exists to shape the future

Created by the **HYDROCONTEST** BY ENSM team, the **RETROFIT CHALLENGE** addresses one of the most pressing questions for the maritime industry: **how to decarbonize existing vessels?**

While **the construction of new eco-efficient ships is advancing**, thousands of vessels remain in service with outdated engines and structures. Instead of replacing them, why not **repair, adapt, and modernize** intelligently?

The **RETROFIT CHALLENGE** invites students to tackle this real industrial issue by proposing concrete, innovative, and sustainable solutions to transform an existing vessel through a case study. An engineering challenge at the heart of the maritime transition.

Why take part?

- To work on a **current issue facing the industry**
- To apply **technical, environmental, and economic skills**
- To experience **a collaborative and career-building project**
- To present your ideas **to key players in the maritime sector**

How to apply?

- Form a student team (**minimum** 2 members – one student and one supervisor)
- Be enrolled in a higher education institution
- Registration is free of charge
- Registration form in Annex 2
- The detailed rules will be provided once the registration is validated
-

✉ For registration or inquiries :
hydrocontest@supmaritime.fr

Calendrier **HYDROCONTEST** *RETRO CHALLENGE* **2026**

- Official launch: **September 15, 2025**
- Student registration: **September 15 – December 15***
- Project submission: **March 2, 2026**
- Final presentations and trials in Marseille: **April 28–30, 2026**

(Participation may take place in person or via videoconference, subject to the organizer's prior approval.)

Registration for HC is free of charge, and will follow the schedule below:

2025

- **From September >>** Contact between the Organizer and the teams, and sending of a registration form.
- **Upon receipt of the registration form** signed by the institution's management, the Organizer will provide the registered teams with **the HC RETROFIT CHALLENGE 2026 Rules** and **the confidentiality agreement** relating to the company concerned by the case study. This agreement must then be completed and signed by the institution's management as well as by each team member.
- **Upon receipt of the signed form and confidentiality agreement, the dataset and the RETROFIT CHALLENGE 2026 case study** will be sent.

** The sooner teams submit their completed and signed documents, the more time they will have to work on their project... and the greater their chances of success!*

2025

- **December 15 >>** Deadline for the organizer to receive registration forms

2026

- **March 2:** Deadline for project submission.
- **March 6:** Deadline for the Organizer to review project submissions and for teams whose files are non-compliant to make corrections.
- **March 8:** Deadline for submitting the additional elements requested by the Organizer.
- **March 9–30:** Review and pre-ranking of submissions by the jury, and selection of the teams invited to pitch before the jury.

The Organizer will provide additional regulatory instructions if necessary.

- **March 30 – April 3:** Transmission of the ranking to the finalist teams.
- **April 30:** Finalist team pitches before the jury.
- **April 30: Awards ceremony (top 3 teams).**

HYDROCONTEST **TECH DAY**

Shaping the maritime transition together

HYDROCONTEST TECH DAY a day of exchange and reflection dedicated to the key challenges of sustainable maritime transport.

Moderated by the editorial team of **the specialized magazine JEUNE MARINE**, the round tables will address key topics such as:

- AI serving the decarbonization of maritime transport
- Eco-design in shipbuilding, from construction to end of life
- The energy transition in Mediterranean ports
- Seafarers' perspectives on decarbonization

Professionals, students, and enthusiasts are invited **to engage in dialogue, discover, and share visions** and solutions to accelerate the transition.

Please note that the themes presented at this stage are for information purposes only. The final program of the event will be announced one month prior to its opening.



HYDROCONTEST

SET COURSE FOR THE “MARITIME PATHWAYS”

A day to discover **maritime careers**.

Middle and high school students will embark on **a dynamic exploration of the maritime sector** through workshops, simulators, virtual reality experiences, junior conferences, exhibitions, and screenings.

A space **entirely dedicated to professions, studies, and careers** will allow young people to find guidance, ask questions, and envision their future. Professionals will support them in choosing options as early as high school, pursuing higher education, or shaping their career paths.

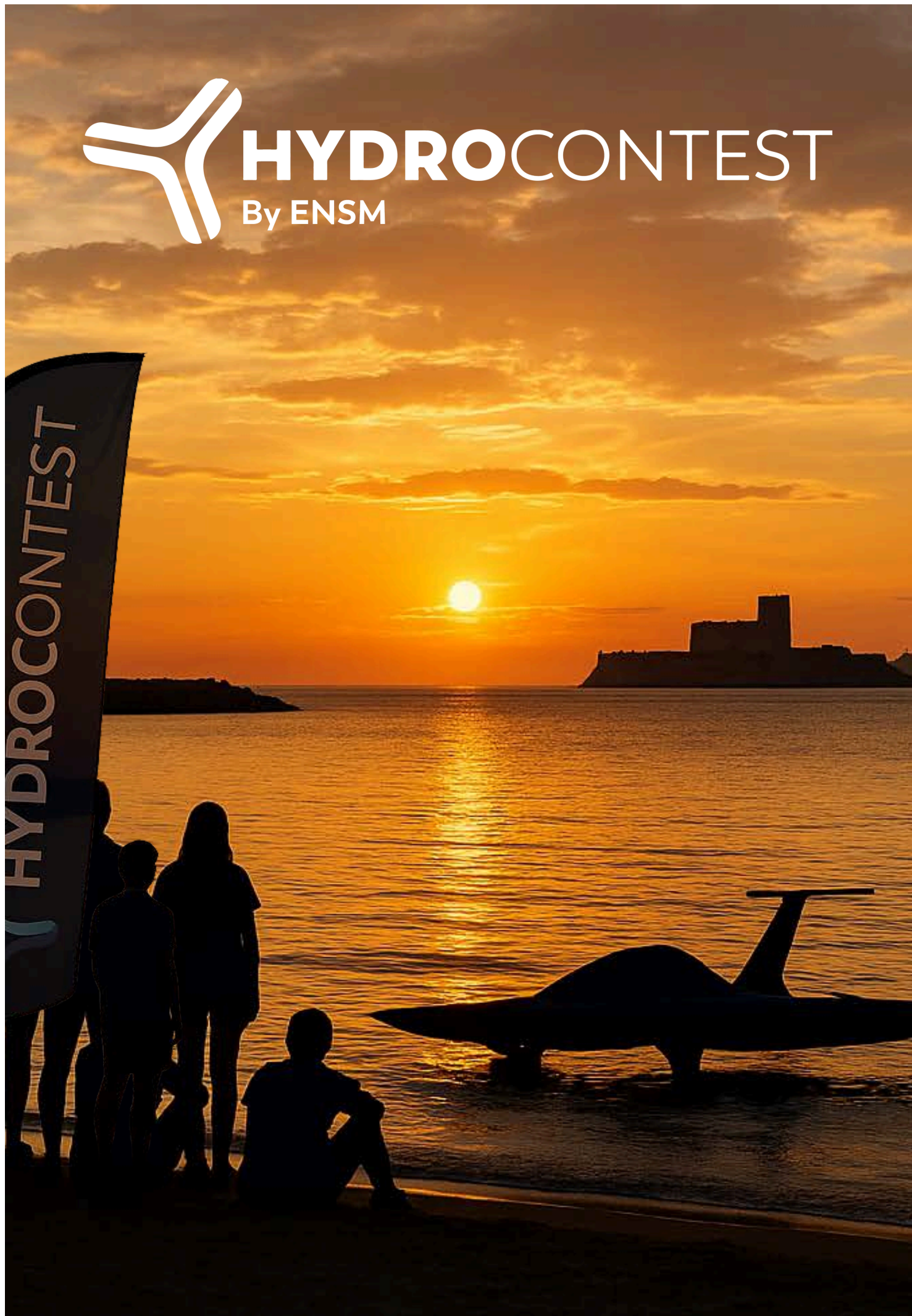
An inspiring immersion designed to spark vocations and broaden horizons.





HYDROCONTEST

By ENSM





CONTACTS

President **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM**

Caroline PONS

+33 6 72 82 27 61

caroline.pons@supmaritime.fr

Vice President & Treasurer **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM**

Aymeric AVISSE

aymeric.avisse@jeunemarine.fr

General Secretary **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM**

Gaëlle HARDY

gaelle.hardy@jeunemarine.fr

Communication Manager **HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM**

Marie GATTO

hydrocontest@supmaritime.fr

Partners:



VILLE DE
MARSEILLE



- le Pôle Mer Méditerranée





JEUNE MARINE et Siège social
HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM
10, Quai Frissard
76600 Le Havre
+33(0)9 70 00 03 80

Organisation
HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM
39 avenue du Corail 13008
Marseille
+33(0)9 70 00 03 80



Annexe 1

Formulaire d'inscription
HYDROCONTEST Rétrofit Challenge
Registration Form
HYDROCONTEST Retrofit Challenge
Du 28 au 30 Avril 2026

Date limite d'inscription 15 décembre 2026

Etablissement participant / *Participating institution*

Nom de l'établissement ou des établissements participants - si regroupement /
Name of the participating institution(s) – if a collaboration:

.....
.....

Définition juridique du ou des établissement(s) / *Legal definition of the institution(s):*

.....

Pays / *Country:*.....

Adresse postale de l'établissement réfèrent / *Postal address of the reference institution:*

.....

Personne référente / *Referring person*

Nom / *Last name:*

Prénom / *first name:*

Fonction au sein de l'établissement / *Position in the school:*.....

.....

Adresse Mail / *mail address:*

Numéro de téléphone + code pays / *Phone number + country code:*

.....

Engagement de l'établissement participant / *Commitment of the participating institution*

En signant cette inscription, l'établissement s'engage à fournir les informations suivantes / *By signing this registration, the institution commits to providing the following information :*

- La description de l'équipe, incluant les noms des personnes de celles-ci ainsi que celui du référent académique / *The description of the team, including the names of its members as well as the name of the academic reference.*
- Une photo de l'équipe / *A photo of the team.*
- Une déclaration de l'équipe confirmant qu'elle possède tous les droits de propriété intellectuelle liés à sa participation / *A statement from the team confirming that it holds all intellectual property rights related to its participation.*
- Toutes les informations de communication nécessaires permettant à l'organisateur de promouvoir l'équipe / *All necessary communication information allowing the organizer to promote the team.*

De plus, les équipes doivent fournir à l'organisation, au plus tard le 2 mars 2026 sous forme numérique à l'adresse suivante / *Additionally, teams must provide the organization, no later than march 2, 2025, in digital format to the following address:* hydrocontest@supmaritime.fr.

- Un dossier projet dont les pièces justificatives sont décrites dans le règlement du rétrofit challenge à l'article 3 / *A project file with the supporting documents described in the Hackathon regulations under Article 3.*

Engagement de l'organisateur/*Commitment of the organizer:*

- Envoyer aux teams le règlement ainsi que le cas d'étude à réception du formulaire d'inscription et au plus tard le 16 décembre/ *Send the rules and the case study to the teams upon receipt of the registration form and no later than December 16.*
- Répondre aux question des équipes / *Answering the teams' questions,*
- Organiser la logistique du Rétrofit challenge / *Organizing the logistics of the Hackathon*
- Valoriser les vainqueurs conformément à l'article 5 du règlement du rétrofit challenge / *Recognizing the winners in accordance with Article 5 of the Hackathon regulations.*

Date/*Date* :.....

Visa et tampon du chef de l'établissement / *Head of school signature and stamp* :

Annexe 2

Formulaire d'inscription
HYDROCONTEST Design
Registration Form
HYDROCONTEST Design
Du 28 au 30 Avril 2026

Date limite d'inscription 15 décembre 2026

Etablissement participant / *Participating institution*

Nom de l'établissement ou des établissements participants - si regroupement /
Name of the participating institution(s) – if a collaboration:

.....
.....

Définition juridique du ou des établissement(s) / *Legal definition of the institution(s):*

.....

Pays / *Country:*.....

Adresse postale de l'établissement réfèrent / *Postal address of the reference institution:*

.....

Personne référente / *Referring person*

Nom / *Last name:*

Prénom / *first name:*

Fonction au sein de l'établissement / *Position in the school:*.....

.....

Adresse Mail / *mail address:*

Numéro de téléphone + code pays / *Phone number + country code:*

.....

Engagement de l'établissement participant / *Commitment of the participating institution*

En signant cette inscription, l'établissement s'engage à fournir les informations suivantes / *By signing this registration, the institution commits to providing the following information :*

La structure juridique qui inscrira l'équipe à l'HC / *The legal entity that will register the team for the HC*

La description de l'équipe, incluant les noms du manager de l'équipe, du responsable communication, du responsable logistique, ainsi que celui du référent académique / *A description of the team, including the names of the team manager, the communication manager, the logistics manager, as well as the academic advisor.*

Une photo de l'équipe / *A team photo*

Une attestation d'assurance en responsabilité civile (RC) garantissant la couverture des dommages pouvant être causés par l'équipe à des tiers, qu'il s'agisse de personnes ou de biens / *A certificate of civil liability insurance (RC) covering any damage that the team may cause to third parties, whether to persons or property.*

Un document écrit de l'établissement s'engageant à prendre en charge l'intégralité des frais et droits de douane pour l'exportation et l'importation du navire vers Marseille à l'aller, et vers le pays d'origine au retour / *An official document from the institution committing to cover all expenses and customs duties for the export and import of the vessel to Marseille for the event, and back to the country of origin afterwards.*

Une déclaration de l'équipe confirmant qu'elle possède tous les droits de propriété intellectuelle liés à sa participation / *A declaration from the team confirming that it holds all intellectual property rights related to its participation.*

Toutes les informations de communication nécessaires permettant à l'organisateur de promouvoir l'équipe ainsi que ses partenaires ou sponsors / *All communication materials necessary for the organizer to promote the team as well as its partners or sponsors.*

De plus, les équipes doivent fournir à l'organisation, au plus tard le 25 mars 2026 / *In addition, teams must provide the organization, no later than March 25, 2026 :*

Une vidéo de 2 minutes montrant le navire en fonctionnement, piloté depuis la terre, dans l'eau, en marche avant et arrière, ainsi que les changements de cap / *A 2-minute video showing the vessel in operation, remotely piloted from shore, on the water, moving forward and backward, as well as performing course changes.*

Un dossier technique détaillant le navire, incluant tous les éléments de jauge (choix architecturaux, chaîne de propulsion, électronique, etc.), en tenant compte de la charte d'éco-conception pour la construction du navire / *A technical file detailing the vessel, including all measurement elements (architectural choices, propulsion system, electronics, etc.), taking into account the eco-design charter for vessel construction.*

L'établissement s'engage également à / *The institution also commits to :*

S'assurer que l'équipe et le navire soient présents au plus tard le 28 avril 2026 à 07h00 au Stade Nautique Florence ARTHAUD, à l'adresse suivante : 6 Promenade Georges Pompidou, 13008 Marseille / *Ensuring that the team and the vessel are present no later than April 28, 2026 at 07:00 at the Stade Nautique Florence ARTHAUD, at the following address: 6 Promenade Georges Pompidou, 13008 Marseille.*

Date/*Date* :.....

Visa et tampon du chef de l'établissement / *Head of school signature and stamp :*