



Swedish waterborne sector engages the transition to zero-emission waterborne transport

Waterborne Technology Platform met with representatives of the Swedish waterborne transport sector, to discuss the needs for research, development and innovation, and next steps towards competitive, safe, digital and zero-emission waterborne transport

Brussels, 06 September 2023

The waterborne transport sector is of strategic importance in keeping Sweden competitive. Over 90 percent of Swedish trade is carried by the waterborne transport sector. The Swedish shipping cluster employs more than 100,000 people, making the sector instrumental in contributing to the national economy in many respects. To discuss the transition to a competitive, safe, digital and zero-emission waterborne transport sector, representatives of the country's waterborne transport sector met with a delegation of the Waterborne Technology Platform on 05 September 2023.

The Waterborne Technology Platform (TP) is the European research and innovation platform for the waterborne industries, providing policy guidance to the European institutions regarding research, development and innovation, as well as the deployment of these innovations.

The discussions are of particular importance for the Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport, a co-operation between the European Commission and the Waterborne Technology Platform. This Partnership aims to develop and demonstrate zero-emission solutions for all main ship types and services before 2030. The European Commission has committed to investing up to EUR 530 million from Horizon Europe towards the Partnership, and the industry has committed to over EUR three billion of investments for the period 2021 – 2030.

Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, said: *“Our meeting with the representatives of the Swedish waterborne transport sector has further clarified our understanding of its opportunities and challenges in the transition to competitive, safe, digital and zero-emission waterborne transport. The maritime cluster in Sweden is at the forefront of implementing innovative solutions onboard ships. The need for research, development and innovation and the related challenges highlighted during our discussions here provide clear guidance to Waterborne TP’s agenda.”*

Claes Möller, CEO of Tärntank, added: *“The transition to zero-emission waterborne transport was and is one of our key priorities. The support for the deployment of innovative solutions, will remain a key priority, to ensure competitiveness in an international sector.”*

Niclas Dahl, CEO of Oceanbird, added: *“There is no single golden bullet in terms of energy source to transform to a zero-emission mode of transport. However, wind solutions will play an important role towards sustainable shipping. The Waterborne Technology Platform plays an essential role in collecting and enabling the transformation of ideas to solutions.”*

Franz Evegren, Director of the unit Fire Safe Transport, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, *“The transition to sustainable alternative fuels is a main driver for innovation in the maritime industry today. In addition to technical solutions, it requires knowledge and training in a whole new palette of fuels to make sure safety standards are kept high.”*



Jonatan Höglund, Deputy CEO Furetank, concluded: The waterborne transport sector needs to become a zero-emission transport mode now and any possible solution has to be explored. Besides the research on new sustainable alternative fuels, energy efficiency will be key to reduce emissions as soon as possible and enable meeting the objectives of a 55% emission reduction towards 2030 as agreed on a European level”.

WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between all waterborne stakeholders, such as classification societies, shipbuilders, shipowners, maritime equipment manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, universities or research institutes, and with the EU Institutions, including Member States (www.waterborne.eu). The members of Waterborne TP comprise members as well as associated members from both maritime and inland navigation countries, representing about 19 Member States. In addition, the Associations member of the Waterborne Technology Platform represent the broader waterborne sector throughout the entire EU.

Enquiries concerning how to join and become more closely involved in the “Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport” partnership or other activities of the Waterborne TP can be sent to: Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General Waterborne TP, jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu, tel: +32 493 835 626

Tärntank Rederi A/S is a shipping company based on the island of Donsö in Gothenburg's southern archipelago (www.terntank.com/). The company was started as a family business in 1904. In 1911, they bought their first vessel, which was a combined fishing and bunker vessel. Before that, they had mainly dealt with miscellaneous trade and the sale of ship fuel. In 1958 they started the operation of tankers which is still active today. Today, the fleet consists of ten ships between 11,000 and 15,000 dwt.

In December 2021, the two established Swedish companies Alfa Laval and Wallenius founded **Oceanbird** to radically reduce the marine industry's carbon footprint (<https://www.theoceanbird.com/>). The 50/50 joint venture, formally called AlfaWall Oceanbird, is developing technology for wind-powered vessel propulsion.

RISE is an independent, state-owned research institute (<https://www.ri.se/en>). As an innovation partner for every part of society, we help develop technologies, products, services and processes that contribute to a sustainable world and a competitive business community. We do this in collaboration with and on behalf of companies, academia and the public sector. We also have a special focus on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in their innovation processes.

Furetank offers safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable logistics solutions to the oil, alternative fuels and chemical industry, focusing on tanker shipping and maritime services (<https://www.furetank.se/>). We strive to continuously reduce the environmental impact of our vessels and operations.