



Adriafer Group joins the Waterborne Technology Platform

Brussels, 12 February 2026

The Waterborne Technology Platform (TP) warmly welcomes the application for membership by [Adriafer](#), further strengthening the representation of port actors in ensuring Europe's waterborne leadership.

Waterborne TP is an industry-oriented European Technology Platform established to ensure a continuous dialogue between the European waterborne sector and the EU Institutions and Member States. Waterborne TP brings together all stakeholders from across the value chain, including shipowners, shipbuilders, equipment manufacturers, classification societies, energy, infrastructure and service providers, ports, universities, and research institutes, ensuring that research development and innovation priorities (RD&I) reflect both industrial needs and policy objectives. The Waterborne TP coordinates the private side of the [Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership](#) and covers activities in the area of vessel technologies and operations, port ecosystems as well as the blue economy.

The Waterborne Technology Platform is currently developing a technology roadmap regarding research, development, innovation (RD&I), upscaling and deployment for port ecosystems. This roadmap will support the transformation of European ports into next-generation hubs for energy, logistics, digital services and industrial activity, equipped to handle the demands of zero-emission vessels, smart and robust logistics chains, offshore energy systems and resilient coastal infrastructure. The intermediate steps in this roadmap focus on the following targets:

- By 2035 – Smart and Clean Foundations Established
- By 2040 – System Integration and Large-Scale Automation
- By 2050 – Fully Integrated, Climate-Neutral Autonomous Port Ecosystems

"Adriafer Group's admission to the Waterborne Technology Platform represents a strategic step in reinforcing the role of port ecosystems as integrated, multimodal and innovation-driven environments. As a shunting operator and port ecosystem representative, we bring the operational perspective of the port-hinterland interface, where decarbonisation, digitalisation and logistics efficiency must converge. Our added value lies in bridging maritime and rail domains, contributing concrete use cases on smart shunting, digital decision-support systems, predictive maintenance and secure multimodal data exchange. We are committed to supporting the development of technology roadmaps that are not only visionary, but also implementable across real port-logistics environments, accelerating the transition towards resilient, climate-neutral and interconnected European port systems." Adriafer Group, said.

Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General, Waterborne TP, added: *"Port ecosystems encompass a wide variety of actors, including the critical connection between the port and the hinterland. The contributions of Adriafer to the development of our different roadmaps will be critical to ensure the strategy includes the wider ecosystem perspective, to ensure solutions developed are tailored accordingly and are deployable. The technology roadmaps will be key tool to support the objectives of the upcoming industrial maritime and port strategies, whereas the sector is providing concrete input on the different steps to be achieved in the transition towards a competitive, resilient and sustainable future."*



WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between the European waterborne sector and the EU Institutions and Member States (www.waterborne.eu). The members of Waterborne TP represent about 19 EU Member States and four European Countries associated to Horizon Europe.

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