

 Press Release - Tuesday, March 09th, 2021

Plastic Odyssey launch its anti pollution boat



Dunkirk, Tuesday March 9th, 2021

After a year and a half of work, the French expedition boat Plastic Odyssey was launched today in the dry dock of the Damen shipyard in Dunkirk. This is a crucial step in ensuring the integrity of the boat's hull before it leaves next June for a three-year round-the-world trip against plastic pollution. And an accomplishment for the crew, who see the end of the ship renovation coming, after heavy asbestos removal work on this former German oceanographic vessel.

«It was a challenge but we are happy to have, even before our departure, done a decontamination project of this scale and avoided scrapping a boat», explains Simon Bernard, President of Plastic Odyssey.

Stopping plastic pollution at its source

Next step: the installation on board of ten recycling machines of 500 kg each. Low tech devices that the expedition members have designed by themselves so that they are easy to replicate all over the world with very few tools.

Our partners

Main

L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE

Officials

CLARINS



Matmut

www.plasticodyssey.org

«Our ambition is to fight plastic pollution at its source. Every minute, more than 20 tons of plastic are poured into the oceans. And 90% of this waste comes from 30 southern countries. This is due to the lack of local collection infrastructures, but also to our own exports of waste there», notes Simon Bernard.

By replicating these machines during stopovers with local entrepreneurs, Plastic Odyssey intends to create an economic interest in the collection and recycling of plastic waste. These will first be sorted, then washed, crushed before being melted down to make new products, ranging from school rulers to insulation or roofing tiles. As for non-recyclable waste, it will be transformed into fuel using an onboard plastic pyrolysis machine.

The end of a long shipyard

Before that, it will be necessary to finish fitting out the boat, including the electrical wiring, the installation of navigation equipment and the construction of a space called “Build the Future” which will present alternatives to plastic to the general public during stopovers.



«All kind of trades worked on this shipyard, from boiler making to painting and electricity, and we benefited from Damen’s expertise on this extremely complex renovation», notes Simon Bernard.

The expedition also received help from young people from DK Clean Up, a Dunkirk beach clean-up association which notably participated in the inventory and preparation of the ship’s fittings.

Departure in June

From the first days of June until September, the Plastic Odyssey ship will be presented in several cities. Already scheduled stopovers include Dunkirk, Rouen, Le Havre, Brest, Concarneau, Nantes, Bordeaux, Casablanca and an arrival in Marseille at the beginning of September to participate in the World Congress of Nature (IUCN). A great opportunity to meet the crew and discover the ship at your doorstep !

Media Kit : [Click here](#)

Learn more : www.plasticodyssey.org
Contact : Alexandre Dechelotte
alexandre.dechelotte@plasticodyssey.org

Our partners

Main

L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE

Officials

CLARINS



Matmut

www.plasticodyssey.org