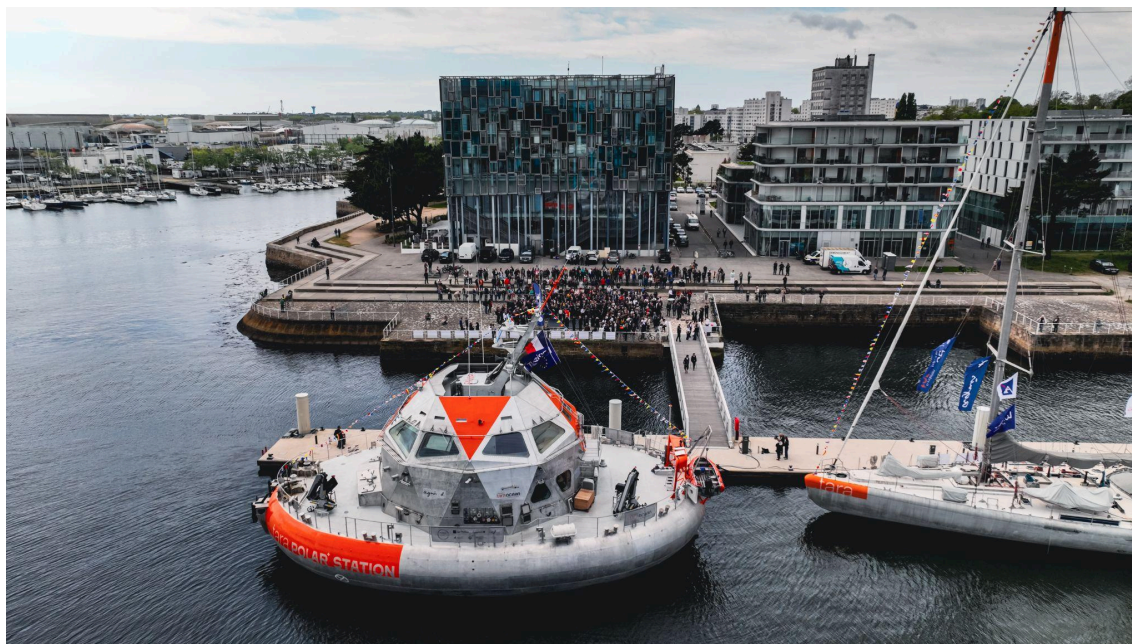


Press release, 25 April 2025

**Under the patronage of Mr Emmanuel MACRON,  
President of the French Republic.**

***Tara Polar Station*, the second Tara Ocean Foundation ship designed to explore the North Pole, has been christened in Lorient, its home port.**



**Credits :** François Dourlen - Tara Ocean Foundation

**Docked in front of *Tara*, the emblematic schooner of the Tara Ocean Foundation, *Tara Polar Station*, a sort of ISS of the North Pole, was christened at the Ponton de la Découverte in Lorient, its home port, on 24 April 2025. The ceremony took place in the presence of Fabrice Loher, Mayor and President of the Lorient urban area, Loïg Chesnais Girard, President of the Regional Council of Brittany, Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, special envoy of the President of the Republic and Ambassador for the Poles and maritime issues, as well as Thomas Pesquet and Agnès Troublé, known as agnès b., godfather and godmother of the ship.**

After 18 months in the yard of Constructions Mécaniques de Normandie (CMN), Tara Polar Station left Cherbourg on 10 April for Lorient, Tara's historic home port since 2003, where the Foundation's two ships will now be based. With a fleet made up of two scientific vessels, the Tara Ocean Foundation is continuing more than ever its mission launched more than 20 years ago: to use the scientific data from the expeditions to inform citizens and political leaders about the challenges of protecting and governing the Ocean.

A first-of-its-kind polar drifting base, *Tara Polar Station* has been designed specifically to study the Arctic and the biodiversity that evolves in this extreme region, which is warming three to four times faster than the global average.

18 years after the first expedition *Tara Arctic*, *Tara Polar Station* will leave for a campaign of tests in polar conditions in June 2025. The observatory and drifting laboratory will head north for a test drift in the Fram Strait from July to August, followed by a test wintering in Longyearbyen in November.

The first expedition, *Tara Polaris I*, is scheduled for 2026 and is expected to last 18 months, including around 14 months drifting. A total of 10 expeditions are planned over the next twenty years, with the aim of studying the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean and understanding the impact of climate change and pollution at the North Pole and beyond. The crew will comprise 12 people in winter and 18 in summer, and will include sailors, scientists, artists in residence and journalists.

#### ***Tara Polar Station* in figures**

- 5 years of design
- 18 months of construction at Constructions Mécaniques de Normandie
- 26 m long
- 16 m wide
- 500 days of autonomy
- 18 places on board
- Designed to withstand temperatures down to -52°C
- 90% of the time will be spent stuck in the ice

*Tara Polar Station* is a real human, technical, scientific and financial challenge. The foundation is looking for additional sources of funding to develop and ensure operational deployment.

#### **Royalty-free photo and video resources**

[Link](#)

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#### **Press Contacts : Agence F**

florence.bardin@agencef.com - +33 6 77 05 06 17  
solene.roux@agencef.com - +33 7 63 32 26 67

## About us

The **Tara Ocean Foundation** is the first public interest foundation in France dedicated to the Ocean.

For over 20 years, it has been striving for a revolution to preserve Life, convinced that the Ocean is essential to the equilibrium of our planet. Exploring the Ocean and sharing scientific discoveries to raise collective awareness is at the heart of the foundation's mission.

It leads scientific expeditions, in partnership with leading international research laboratories, to study marine biodiversity and understand the impacts of climate change and pollution. It raises public awareness, from the younger generation to political decision-makers. Thanks to its UN Special Observer Status, the foundation plays an active role in international Ocean governance.

**Exploring, sharing and protecting this living Ocean is more vital than ever. Together, let's defend Life. Let's protect the Ocean.**

Discover the foundation at <https://fondationtaraocean.org/> and on [video](#).