

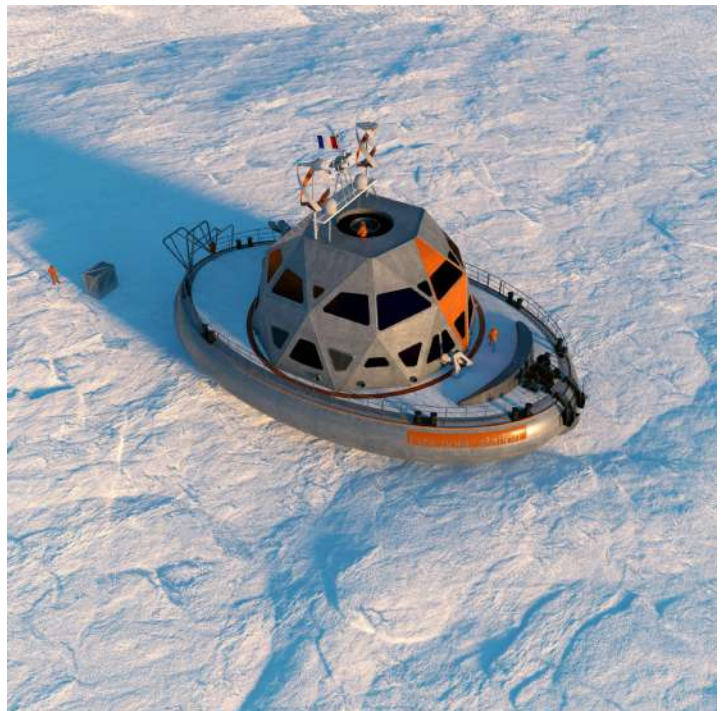
Press Release, April 17th 2023

Tara Polar Station will be built in Cherbourg

After 5 years of design, the Tara Ocean Foundation project is moving from plans to reality. The construction of the new vessel designed for observation and scientific research in the Arctic begins. The shipyard was entrusted to Constructions Mécaniques de Normandie (CMN) in Cherbourg. The Tara Ocean Foundation is delighted to launch the project in France.

The countdown to this unprecedented scientific exploration at the North Pole has begun.

The Tara Polar Station project will last 18 months for a delivery in early autumn 2024. *“The objective is to launch this ship in September 2024, and to carry out a test campaign in polar conditions for 3 to 4 months from winter 2024.”* says Romain Troublé, General Manager of the Tara Ocean Foundation. Tara Polar Station's first expedition to the far reaches of the North Pole is scheduled for the summer of 2025.



Designed by the architect Olivier Petit, the drifting polar base will be able to withstand temperatures of -52°C and will embark, on ten successive expeditions, scientists from all over the world until 2045. Climatologists, biologists, physicists, glaciologists, oceanographers, engineers, artists, doctors, journalists, and sailors will unite and coexist aboard this North

Pole ISS to make observations and conduct experiments on site, partly during the long winter polar night. The 24-meter polar base will accommodate a crew of 12 people in winter and up to 20 people in summer. For once, the Arctic environment and the biodiversity that inhabits it will be studied over the long term and observations on this still little-known ecosystem and its biodiversity will take place through the seasons.

Tara Polar Station: studying the Arctic to accelerate climate and biodiversity research.

Trapped in the ice floe, Tara Polar Station will aim to strengthen French and international research on the Arctic, one of the most extreme environments on our planet, in order to better understand the impact of climate change on biodiversity and the adaptability of local species. The main research objectives will be to study:

1. The migration of marine organisms towards the Arctic and their fate;
2. The impact of climate change on the functioning of ecosystems in the Arctic
3. New discoveries in biotechnology and biomedicine, as well as the adaptation of life in extreme conditions;
4. The mechanisms of climate change in the Arctic.

The drifting laboratory and observatory will be equipped with a wet lab for sample handling, dry labs with instrumentation, and dedicated on-site experimentation labs to conduct experiments on little-known organisms from the Arctic Ocean and understand this unique ecosystem.

“The Arctic has just come close to a record low ice at the end of winter. Time is running out to go to the bedside of its largely unknown biodiversity.” warns Chris Bowler, CNRS Research Director at the École Normale Supérieure and President of the Scientific Committee of the Tara Ocean Foundation.

The scientific and human adventure is already mobilizing many partners.

There are many scientific partners alongside the Tara Ocean Foundation behind the three pilots, the CNRS, Laval University through the Takuvik laboratory and the American University of Maine. A total of around thirty

laboratories from 12 countries participate in the development of the scientific strategy, notably the Swiss Polar Institute, the Sorbonne, the Free University of Brussels, the CEA-Genoscope, the Alfred Wegener Institute of Germany, the CNES, the Paul-Emile Victor French Polar Institute and many others.

Institutional partners have also pledged to support the construction of the vessel. This public-private program benefits from co-financing from the French government within the framework of France 2030 and from the European Union – Next Generation EU within the framework of the France Relance plan. This new scientific exploration will contribute to the deployment in the Arctic of France's Polar Strategy for 2030: "Balancing the extremes" and also calls for the creation of a polar inter ministerial committee to support France's essential investment in Antarctic infrastructures guaranteeing high-level science.

It also benefits from the financial support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Explorations de Monaco, BNP Paribas, *agnès b.*, the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation, the support of Cap Gemini Engineering, the Veolia Foundation and from Bureau Veritas.

The Tara Ocean Foundation is still working to seek additional sources of funding to cover the full construction and the first years of operational deployment.

tara POLAR STATION



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About

The Tara Ocean Foundation — first public interest foundation in France dedicated to the Ocean — has two main missions: exploring the Ocean to better understand it and sharing scientific knowledge about the Ocean to raise public awareness. For 20 years, the Foundation has been supporting innovative Ocean science, in partnership with world-leading research centers to study marine biodiversity, as well as observe and anticipate the impacts of climate change and pollution. Faced with the urgent need to make the protection of the Ocean a common responsibility, the Foundation raises public awareness of the challenges facing the Ocean, educates young generations, facilitates international cooperation and mobilizes policymakers. Thanks to its Special Observer Status at the United Nations, the Foundation actively participates in crucial decisions in favor of the Ocean. **Studying and protecting the Ocean means taking care of the global health of our planet and our future.**
www.fondationtaraocean.org