

PRESS RELEASE – Wind for Goods

## WIND FOR GOODS – 19 & 20 June 2025

### WIND-POWERED MARITIME TRANSPORT: THE CHALLENGE OF LARGE-SCALE DEPLOYMENT

*Saint-Nazaire, 19 June 2025* – **Amidst ever-pressing environmental challenges, wind-powered maritime transport is emerging as a concrete solution to tackle global climate and energy issues.**

**At the third edition of Wind for Goods, the international sustainable wind-powered transport event organised by Nantes Saint-Nazaire Développement in partnership with Nantes Métropole, Saint-Nazaire Agglo, the Nantes St-Nazaire Chamber of commerce, the Pays de la Loire Region, ADEME, Nantes Saint-Nazaire Port and Oportunity, nearly 1,000 stakeholders in wind-powered transport are calling on all players to join forces and rise to the challenge of scaling up this emerging sector.**

Currently, 90 % of global freight is carried by sea, responsible for approximately 3 % of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The latest regulatory measures set out by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in April 2025 aim to achieve net-zero emissions by or around 2050. Harnessing clean, free, renewable energy—the wind—this innovative technology is rapidly gaining momentum. The wind-propulsion sector is ready for take-off and now faces its greatest challenge: scaling up, the theme of this 3rd Wind for Goods edition.

#### A global sector ready to expand

Wind-powered shipping projects are transitioning to industrial scale. Around 100 wind-propelled vessels are in operation or under construction worldwide in 2025, with projections estimating 400 retrofits and 1,200 newbuilds by 2030. Experts anticipate that 45 % of the global fleet—around 40,000 vessels—could be equipped with sails by 2050. France is poised to supply one-third of the global market. With its long-standing maritime know-how, the Pays de la Loire region is well-positioned to meet this expanding demand.

#### Significant projects underway in Nantes & Saint-Nazaire

- Neoline unveiled the construction of its first sail-powered cargo ship *Neoliner Origin*, designed in Nantes and due to be launched later this year.
- Airseas, spun off from Airbus and based in Nantes since early 2020, recently completed successful trials with its kite-wing in Dakhla, Morocco.
- Wisamo, part of the Michelin Group, was selected in February to outfit France's new-generation maritime patrol vessel.
- Chantiers de l'Atlantique, based in Saint-Nazaire, continues to develop *SolidSail* rigid wing technology.
- Computed Wind Sail, operating since September 2024 in Saint-Nazaire, secured its first order for sails in April—for Windcoop.
- At Centrale Nantes, Farwind Energy launched the construction of a rotor prototype for ship propulsion.

### **Port infrastructure geared towards wind-power**

Nantes Saint-Nazaire Port offers extensive facilities supporting wind-powered shipping, including land plots already hosting the region's first operator in this field and ready for future ventures. At the Montoir de Bretagne industrial-logistics hub, the port provides 4,800 to 7,500 m<sup>2</sup> metal-textile warehouses ideal for sail assembly and logistics. One such site, near the Saint-Nazaire bridge, now houses CWS, and an adjacent 8-hectare platform is primed for further development.

### **Call for a clear regulatory framework**

During Wind for Goods, all stakeholders reiterated the urgent need for regulatory, fiscal, and political support to accelerate this energy transition in maritime transport. A bill has been submitted to the French National Assembly to provide a legal framework and official recognition for wind-propulsion cargo vessels. This proposed law aims to fill a legislative gap by legally acknowledging these vessels and supporting a sector critical to the green transition in maritime logistics.

### **International ambitions for Wind for Goods**

This third edition of Wind for Goods has grown notably, with nearly 1,000 participants and 80 exhibitors. A significant increase in international presence—about twenty companies from ten countries (Netherlands, UK, Norway, Germany, Japan...)—highlights its emerging status as a flagship European, if not global, event in the sector.

Nantes Métropole, Saint-Nazaire Agglo and the Pays de la Loire Region continue to play pivotal roles in fostering this dynamic ecosystem.

### **David Samzun, Mayor of Saint-Nazaire:**

*"100 is the number of vessels in service or on order equipped with wind-propulsion systems currently on the market. To decarbonise, there are two types: those waiting for magic solutions, and those who rely on innovation and industry. These inventors, these industrialists, all those shaping the maritime transport of tomorrow through rapid scaling, meet in Saint-Nazaire for the 3rd edition of Wind for Goods. I welcome them to this garden-city by the ocean, where innovation, progress and ecology strengthen one another."*

### **Anthony Descloziers, Vice-President for the Economy, Nantes Métropole:**

*"I applaud the organisation of this third major edition of Wind for Goods, a flagship event showcasing wind-propulsion innovation and its progress. More broadly, with Wind for Goods and recently PoSEable, our territory confirms its ambition and positioning regarding the decarbonisation of maritime transport."*

### **Claire Hugues, Vice-President of the Pays de la Loire Region, in charge of Maritime Affairs:**

*"We collectively hold all the cards to decarbonise maritime transport—from our businesses, academia, our major port, to our innovation ecosystem. The Region was an early believer in these solutions, being the first to support MEET2050, the national institute dedicated to maritime decarbonisation. We have long supported industrial players to develop concrete, industrial-scale solutions—from Neoline and Solid Sail, to CWS and Farwind, to name a few. The solutions are here; it's time to adopt them. The sector is growing, which is why, alongside the State, we back the VENFFRAIS*

initiative spearheaded by Wind Ship and its members, aiming to strengthen this strategic sector for our territory.”

**Nicolas Debon, CEO, Nantes Saint-Nazaire Développement:**

“As a mission-driven agency, we support all companies in Nantes and Saint-Nazaire in their transitions, help ecosystems evolve, and imagine together a more virtuous future. It is in this spirit that we passionately launched Wind for Goods—an event we proudly present for its third edition.”

Since 2021, Wind for Goods has united stakeholders committed to accelerating the decarbonisation of maritime transport. As the first international event dedicated to eco-conscious wind transport of goods and passengers, it connects all industry players to highlight solutions and practices that reduce the maritime carbon footprint and drive cultural change.

Over two days, some 1,000 participants and 80 exhibitors from across France and abroad—including engineering firms, shipowners, equipment providers, manufacturers, shippers, business networks, competitiveness clusters, research and educational institutions, investors and policy-makers—come together to discuss major sectorial advancements, create synergies, and support the wind-propulsion industry’s growth.

**AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS**

- 25 workshops, panel discussions and conferences
- Business meetings
- On-water vessel demonstrations:
  - Solid Sail rigid-wing technology by Chantiers de l’Atlantique for cruise ships and cargo vessels
  - WISAMO, Michelin’s inflatable and retractable wing sail system
  - Beyond the Sea, a universal kite propulsion system for leisure and cargo ships
  - ACCWing, a high-performance sail wing suitable for all vessel types
- Tours of two major French industrial players: Chantiers de l’Atlantique and Nantes Saint-Nazaire Port

**KEYNOTES**

- **Maxime Blondeau**, author, speaker and entrepreneur, will explore *cosmography*—the science of territory representation—and how our visualisation of space impacts our relationship with climate, water, living beings, and time, guided via maps, satellite imagery, and photography.
- **Célia Agostini**, Director, Cleantech for France, and **Éric Banel**, Director General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, will discuss how wind propulsion is ready to take off and what strategic decisions—investments, regulations, political will—are needed. Topics will include:
  - Strategic decision-making in decarbonisation
  - Lessons from other high-innovation sectors
  - Preventing loss of expertise and technology to foreign actors

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- **Photo and video gallery available [here](#).**

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## About Nantes Saint-Nazaire Développement

Nantes Saint-Nazaire Développement is dedicated to promoting responsible economic development across the Nantes and Saint-Nazaire region. It unites, attracts, and supports impact-driven businesses—especially in low-carbon industry & tech, maritime economy, circular economy, health & life sciences, and sustainable business tourism. Over the past decade, the agency has supported more than 750 companies, contributing to the creation of over 10,000 jobs.

Bearing the hallmark "Faire cap commun!", it became France's first mission-driven economic development agency in 2024, expanding its governance to include around ten local organisations to oversee economic, social, and environmental transformation. Funded by Nantes Métropole, Saint-Nazaire Agglo, and the CCI Nantes St-Nazaire, it employs 33 staff.

Website: [www.nantes-saintnazaire.fr](http://www.nantes-saintnazaire.fr)