

## PRESS RELEASE - January 31, 2025

### Launching of the Neoliner Origin: Neoline's First Sail-Powered Cargo Ship Enters Its Final Phase of Construction!

**Tuzla, Turkey – January 31, 2025** – Neoline is proud to celebrate a major milestone with the launching of the **Neoliner Origin**, its first sail-powered ro-ro cargo ship, at RMK Marine shipyard.

- This impressive and symbolic maneuver sees the ship sliding off the slipway into the water.
- The vessel will then be moored at RMK Marine's outfitting quay, where the final outfitting works, the mast installation, and dock trials will take place.
- In total, over 3,500 tons of steel were cut, forming 75 blocks that were assembled to create the ship's hull, on which the main equipment has already been installed.

Since the construction contract came into force in January 2023, every step taken has brought Neoline closer to its goal: from months of detailed design work to the cutting of the first steel plate in November 2023 and the laying of the first block in February 2024.

This event marks a major milestone in the realization of Neoline's first vessel, the result of thousands of hours of work by RMK Marine's teams and all technical partners: Mauric, Chantiers de l'Atlantique, Fouré Lagadec, D-Ice Engineering, Axima, Bio-Sea, Gürdesan, BMA, Berg Propulsion, ABC, and others.



Crédit Photo: Jules Richeux & Sandrine Avner

#### A High-Performance and Innovative Vessel

- **Length:** 136 meters
- **Propulsion:** Two 76-meter Solid Sail carbon masts with retractable leeboards
- **Operating speed:** 11 knots
- **GHG emission reductions:** Up to 80% compared to a conventional ship of similar size

Its cargo capacity is 1,200 linear meters or 265 TEUs, with a maximum weight of 5,300 tons of goods, including rolling equipment, containers, and oversized freight.



In the coming months, sea trials of the Neoliner Origin will take place before its expected delivery in late June 2025, followed by its inaugural voyage departing from Saint-Nazaire in summer 2025.

The Neoliner Origin will operate a regular route on its **pilot line between Saint-Nazaire, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Baltimore (USA), and Halifax (Canada).**



During the ceremony, Jean Zanuttini, President of Neoline, emphasized:  
*“The launching of a ship is always an emotional moment, but in this case it’s Neoliner Origin, a ship of a new type, which combines the use of wind with the most modern technologies to demonstrate the possibility of industrial maritime transport that is effectively respectful of the environment. It is also the first achievement of a long-term commitment, first by the founders of Neoline, then by all the financial partners, and finally by the extraordinary work accomplished by RMK Marine shipyard and all the technical partners. We are extremely proud to admire this superb building today, and would like to warmly thank all our partners for their trust and commitment. We’re looking forward, with our crews, to sailing our first nautical miles this summer!”*



Ms. Isabelle Dumont, French Ambassador to Turkey, highlighted the importance of international collaboration:  
*“I am honored to be here with you to celebrate the launch of the very first wind-powered cargo ship born from the cooperation between our French and Turkish industries. [...] The Neoliner Origin, which we are launching today, is a concrete response to these challenges. Economically viable, it represents a major innovation, capable of reducing fuel consumption by up to 90% thanks to wind energy. This vessel is more than just a cargo ship—it is a symbol of hope, sustainability, decarbonization, and respect for biodiversity.”*

**The Neoliner Origin was made possible through extensive cooperation among our partners:**

- **Financial partners:** CMA CGM, ADEME Investissement, Corsica Ferries, Hardy, CIC, Bpifrance, Banque des Territoires, Région Pays de la Loire.
- **Technical partners:** Chantiers de l’Atlantique, MAURIC, Fouré Lagadec, D-ICE, Sailcoop.
- **Committed shippers:** Renault Group, Groupe Bénéteau, MANITOU Group, La Fournée Dorée, Hennessy, Longchamp, Groupe Clarins, Rémy Cointreau.

**Embark on a Unique Maritime Adventure**

With a crew of 13, the vessel will also be able to accommodate 12 passengers in double cabins of 27 m², each with a balcony. Passenger crossings, marketed by Sailcoop, will begin in summer 2025.

For more information on the Neoliner Origin and its innovative features, visit our website:  
<https://www.neoline.eu/>





## The Companies



RMK MARINE is one of the leading companies in the Turkish shipbuilding industry. It carries out various type of high-tech ship and yacht building projects to international standards. RMK MARINE offers turnkey solutions for the production of superyachts, naval ships and merchant ships for national and international markets, which are its main areas of activity. Its sales and expertise have grown steadily since 1997, when the company joined Turkey's largest industrial and services group: Koç Holding.



**NEOLINE Développement** was founded in 2015 by a group of merchant marine professionals, all convinced of the need for a transition to a more responsible shipping. Neoline Développement wanted to commit into promoting energy sobriety in shipping by developing new transport services. This is materialized by the desire to operate innovative vessels equipped with a main wind propulsion system, with the aim of significantly minimizing emissions. Owned up to 75% by the holding company of the founding shareholders, NEOLINE & Associés, this initiative is supported by the Pays de la Loire Région and the BPI. Neoline Développement is supported by Atlanpole, and finally the project benefits from the Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique label.

**NEOLINE Armateur** Created in 2021 by NEOLINE Développement, NEOLINE Armateur is the ship owning company that will finance and operate the first NEOLINER ORIGIN vessel, a ro-ro cargo ship mainly powered by wind, on the transatlantic pilot line between Saint-Nazaire, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Baltimore and Halifax, departing every month from 2025. French flagship industries such as Renault Group, Groupe Beneteau, Manitou Group, Jas Hennessy & Co, Clarins, Longchamp, Rémy Cointreau and La Fourcée Dorée are among the first customers, pioneering this new France - Northern America route. NEOLINE Armateur is owned by CMA CGM, ADEME Investissement, NEOLINE Développement, Corsica Ferries and Louis Hardy SAS. The Bank financing of the vessel is provided by CIC, along with CIC Ouest, BPGO and Banque Palatine. The project also benefits from a Strategic Projects Guarantee via BPIFrance, as well as additional financing from the Banque des Territoires des Pays de la Loire and the Pays de la Loire Region. EDF is also a partner in the project and it will provide post-commissioning financing through a specific CEE (Certificats d'Economies d'Energie) agreement.

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