



## RV SIMON STEVIN

A new multidisciplinary coastal research vessel

---

### General information

The new research vessel will mainly be used for academic coastal oceanographic research in the southern bight of the North Sea, as a training platform for students following marine science and maritime programmes and as a test platform for new marine or maritime technologies. In addition, educational trips for primary and secondary schools will be organised aboard the vessel. The ship will sail under the Belgian flag and will be registered in Ostend.

The design of the ship will meet the needs of various marine research disciplines: physical oceanography, fisheries research, marine biology, microbiology, chemistry, technology, archaeology and earth sciences. In view of the variety of scientific objectives and the resulting required flexibility a major part of the scientific equipment will be loaded on board the vessel in and be operated from containers that can be assembled on the afterdeck.

The ship will be equipped with all standard sampling equipment and with hi-tech sonar techniques allowing flow measurements (acoustic flow monitor) and soil characterization (multibeam).

Highly accurate positioning is ensured by means of a dynamic positioning and navigation system that guarantees maximum manoeuvrability up to a sailing speed of 3Kn. A diesel electric drive offers the possibility to sail as a 'silent ship'. This ensures that all acoustic measuring instruments can be used in an optimal manner.

### Specifications

- Monohull
- Autonomy: five days
- Working area: southern bight of the North Sea and eastern part of the Channel
- Operations within 200nm (or approx. 370 km)
- Mainly daytime operations with multiple-day trips on a regular basis
- Platform stable up to significant wave height of 2m
- Maximal speed: 12Kn
- Maximum manoeuvrability & capable of sailing a steady course at minimum 3Kn
- Draught: 3.5m
- Dynamic positioning
- Diesel electric drive
- Afterdeck of 80m<sup>2</sup>

### Accommodation

- At least 8 scientists (2-person cabins)
- Total number of people on board for day trips: up to 20 (students/pupils)

- Common mess and kitchen space for crew/scientists/students
- Meeting space/classroom for minimum 12 persons (combined function with mess)

#### Scientific facilities

- Wet lab space / Fish sorting area / CTD room of 30m<sup>2</sup>
- Dry lab space of 25m<sup>2</sup>
- Computer room

#### Working deck equipment

- Oceanographic arm at starboard side
- A-frame at starboard side for small point samplings (1 tonne)
- Large A-frame fence at the stern (6 tonnes)
- 2 main winches, 6 tonnes of tractive power each
- Removable net drum winch
- Hydraulic deck crane (telescopic) for loading and unloading equipment
- Space + fixation points for standard 10 & 20 feet containers

#### Other requirements

- Seawater intake system
- Freezer/refrigerator room of 5m<sup>3</sup>
- Compressed air line
- Flow-through centrifuge
- Meteorological unit on mast at the bow outside the turbulence of the ship
- Working space for bird counters/sea mammal observations on the bridge