NewRV

A NEW MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH VESSEL TO REPLACE THE RV A962 BELGICA

LIEVEN NAUDTS
PIERRE DE BLOCK
MARK ARNALSTEEN
RBINS-DD NATURE MSO
PATRICK ROOSE
PETER DEGRAER
LUC LAMAS
YVES DUPONT
FRANK MONTEY

REPLACEMENT PROCESS

- 2005 Council of Ministers agrees with the feasibility study on the replacement or modernization of the RV Belgica
- 2013 Council of Ministers agrees with the feasibility study and with the start of the finance study on the replacement or the modernization of the RV Belgica
- 2014 Council of Ministers agrees with the finance study: the build of a new research vessel is the best solution
- 2016 Council of Ministers principally agrees with the replacement of the RV Belgica and with the preparation of the public tender and the development of the further collaboration between Federal Sciences Policy and Defence for the exploitation of the new research vessel
- 2017 Council of Ministers agrees with the launch of the public tender and the replacement of the RV Belgica by providing the necessary budget (54.45 M€ incl. VAT)

FREIGHTER

- Diesel-Electric propulsion
- DNV-GL Silent-R or equivalent engine
- Limited influence on environment & Optimal acoustic platform

FULL OCEAN RESEARCH VESSEL

- >65 m length, >15 m beam, max. 4.8 draft
- 11 kn operational speed (max. 13 kn)
- North Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea Instrumentation adapted to water depths of 5000 m
- Minimum Ice Class for summer operations in Arctic areas

GREEN SHIP

- Waste-heat recovery
- MARPOL TIER III
- Energy efficient & Low emission

NEW CAPABILITIES

- Dynamic Positioning Class 2 (DP-2)
- Active stabilization System
- 12 crew – 28 scientists & marine technicians
- 30 day autonomy
- 300 days at sea
- Suitable for offshore research, survey & exploration

MORE SPACE

- 400 m² of lab space
- Wet Lab
- 3 Dry Labs
- Wet and Dry Fish Lab
- AUV Lab
- Aerosol Lab
- Diver Store
- Seismic Room
- Scientific Lab
- Operational Center
- CTD hangar
- Hangar
- Crew’s Nest
- Cold & Freeze Rooms
- Large ait & stdb decks
- Adapted to the scientific needs for the coming 30 years

FULL ACOUSTIC UNDERWATER INSTRUMENTATION SUITE

- Shallow and deep-water bathymetric multibeam echosounders (>300 m & >5000 m)
- Parametric subbottom profiler (>5000 m)
- Scientific multibeam & split-beam wideband echosounder (>5000 m)
- Omnidirectional fish sonar (>4000 m)
- net- and catch monitoring system
- Underwater position-reference system (USBL) (>5000 m)
- Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (>700 m & <50 m)
- Mapping and analyses of full water column (incl. fauna), sea floor and subsurface

ADAPTED TO EXISTING LARGE EUROPEAN MARINE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Autonomous Underway Vehicles (AUVs)
- Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)
- 3D seismic systems
- Scientific sediment coring and rock drill devices
- Storage space of 7 ISO 20' containers
- 2 integrated drop keels
- A platform for European cooperation through which Belgian researchers get (free) access to large (and expensive) European marine research infrastructure

TIMELINE

- 2016: Specifications NewRV discussed with 10 ship yards (ESP, FR, NED, UK)
- March 2017: Final agreement on replacement including budget (CoM)
- June 2017: Launch of tender
- End 2017: Agreement on selection (CoM) & signed contract
- 2018-2020: Design & build NewRV
- 2018-2019: New convention and business plan (CoM)
- Mid 2020: Delivery NewRV

NEW POTENTIAL & END USERS

- Complete support of Belgian Marine Science community
- Ship time exchange with European Research institutes to: Enhance research capacity and study areas based on shared cost
- Strengthening the Belgian role in the Blue economy via its researchers, training centers & maritime industry
- Financial return by deploying NewRV as an exploration- & test platform, research- & monitoring ship, education- & training platform

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NewRV@BELSPO.be

odnature.naturalsciences.be/belgica