

PRESS RELEASE

HYDROCONTEST BY ENSM BECOMES AN ASSOCIATION AND ANNOUNCES ITS MAJOR 2026 EDITION IN MARSEILLE

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 28-30, 2026

After a transition phase, the event is reborn as an independent association: **HydroContest By ENSM**, jointly supported by the **École Nationale Supérieure Maritime (ENSM)** and the professional magazine **Jeune Marine**.

A SHARED AMBITION

With nearly 150 students expected, two educational days dedicated to 250 school pupils, a target of 1,000 visitors from the general public, and a network of professionals engaged, the event aims to become a **catalyst for innovation and awareness**.

Supported by a committee of maritime experts and enthusiasts, **HydroContest By ENSM 2026** seeks to unite energies to accelerate the ecological transition of maritime transport. Beyond the competition, the event is meant to be **a human and scientific adventure**, a symbol of unity across generations, a laboratory for concrete solutions, and a must-attend gathering for the maritime ecosystem



HydroContest By ENSM 2026 will stand on four pillars

- **HYDROCONTEST DESIGN** : an international competition focused on designing and piloting eco-efficient ship prototypes.
- **HYDROCONTEST RETROFIT CHALLENGE** : a student challenge focused on upgrading the energy performance of an existing ship.
- **HYDROCONTEST TECH DAYS** : round tables and exchanges on key issues in maritime decarbonization.
- **HYDROCONTEST SET COURSE FOR MARITIME PATHWAYS**: an educational space introducing school pupils to maritime professions and training opportunities

A LANDMARK 2026 EDITION

The **HydroContest by ENSM** association, chaired by Caroline Pons with Aymeric Avisse as Treasurer and Gaëlle Hardy as Secretary, is an initiative supported by two prestigious Vice-Presidents: **Jean-Emmanuel Sauvée** and **Jean-François Suhas**. Together, they promote the vision of a decarbonized maritime transport.

PARTNERS



FOUNDING PARTNERS:



THE CREW

HYDROCONTEST *BY ENSM* 2026



Caroline PONS
President

Merchant Navy Officer – Lecturer
at ENSM – Maritime Affairs
Administrator



Jean-Emmanuel SAUVÉ
Vice president

President of the Académie de
Marine – Former President of
Armateurs de France – Former
CEO of PONANT



Jean-François SUHAS
Vice president

Maritime Pilot – President of
Marseille Provence Cruise
Association



Aymeric AVISSE
Vice President & Treasurer

Unlimited Master & Chief Engineer
at BOLUDA France – President of
Jeune Marine



Denis HOREAU
Race Director
Technical Advisor

Former iconic Director of the
Vendée Globe – Maritime
consultant – Skipper



Olivier DANIEL
Technical Advisor

Lecturer at ENSM – Former
specialist in fleet & renewable
energy investments at BOURBON



François ARNAUD d'AVITAYA
Technical Advisor

Physicist – Retired Professor, University
of the Mediterranean (AMU) – Former
Research Director at CINaM (CNRS) –
Scientific Advisor.



Gaëlle HARDY
General Secretary

Media & Partnerships Coordinator,
Jeune Marine – Coordinator,
WISTA Le Havre @WISTA France.

HYDROCONTEST MEDIA RESOURCES



 Website



 LinkedIn



 Instagram



 Facebook

 YOUTUBE :
<https://youtu.be/fXFNxSYkRt8>

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As the newly appointed President of HydroContest by ENSM, I am proud to carry forward an inspiring project that embraces every dimension of today's maritime challenges: innovation, through the design of new vessels, and energy transition, through the reduction of the carbon footprint of the existing fleet.

Two complementary student challenges embody this collective ambition.

Our association is built on a strong alliance: ENSM, a maritime school of excellence with international reach, and Jeune Marine, driven with energy and professionalism by its president, Aymeric Avisse, together with the valuable commitment of Gaëlle Hardy, who forges a unique bridge between students, officers, shipowners, and institutions.

The vice-presidency, held by Jean-Emmanuel Sauvée and Jean-François Suhas, also reflects the richness and diversity of the strengths that surround us.

I am confident that this first edition, to be held in Marseille at the Stade Nautique Florence Arthaud from April 28 to 30, 2026, will be a stage for exciting challenges and a collective success worthy of our ambitions.

Caroline PONS

President of the HydroContest by ENSM Association

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