

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO THE 2ND SEASTARS NEWSLETTER!

Edition 2 | January 2026

We are excited to share with you the latest updates from **SEASTARS** – *Sustainable Emission Abatement Strategies & Technologies for Advanced Revolutionary Ships*, a Horizon Europe Innovation Action project that sets sail to deliver practical and scalable solutions for maritime decarbonisation.

Opening

Since the publication of our first newsletter, SEASTARS has transitioned into an active delivery phase, marked by the publication of core deliverables, strong engagement with the European maritime ecosystem, and visible participation in high-impact industry events.

This edition highlights key technical and exploitation milestones, strengthened synergies with other EU-funded initiatives, consortium insights, and a clear roadmap for upcoming Design Thinking Workshops and the Posidonia 2026 Open Day.

The SEASTARS Consortium

SEASTARS brings together **19 partners from 8 countries**, covering the full spectrum of the maritime value chain:

- **Shipowners, Shipbuilders & Operators:** Neptune Lines, Minerva Marine, Mercurius Shipbuilding
- **Green Maritime Consultancy & Technology Integrators:** AURELIA Design BV, Alpha Marine Consulting PC, RINA
- **Technology Providers:** DGTWIN, ERMA FIRST, Bound4Blue, Voyex, Vertoro, Quadrise, Composite Recycling, Metacon SA
- **Research Institutes & Academia:** University of Strathclyde, Durham University, MARIN
- **Maritime Training & Industry Networks:** ATHINA Maritime Learning Center, HEMEXPO



NEWSLETTER

KEY HIGHLIGHTS & SYNERGIES

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

📄 Publication of four core project deliverables (D1.1, D2.1, D6.1 & D7.1)

🌐 Strong presence at three leading maritime events: London International Shipping Week (LISW), ESN Summit, Europort Rotterdam

🤝 Strategic synergies established with EU-funded projects: NH3CRAFT, LH2CRAFT, SAFECRAFT, ECOSHIPYARD

🔧 Completion of the preparation phase for Design Thinking Workshops (2026)

📅 Open Day at Posidonia 2026 officially confirmed

▶ Our new video is live!
[Watch on YouTube](#)



SYNERGIES WITH OTHER EU PROJECTS

SEASTARS actively aligns its work with complementary Horizon Europe and ZEWT Partnership projects to maximise impact and accelerate market uptake:

- **NH3CRAFT** – Designing and demonstrating safe, scalable onboard ammonia storage and fuel systems for maritime applications.
- **LH2CRAFT** – Developing next-generation liquid hydrogen storage solutions for long-distance and large-scale shipping.
- **SAFECRAFT** – Addressing safety, risk assessment, and regulatory readiness for alternative fuels and innovative ship systems.
- **ECOSHIPYARD** – Supporting greener shipyard operations and circular practices for sustainable ship construction and retrofitting.

These synergies reinforce SEASTARS' systems-level approach, ensuring technical, regulatory, and operational coherence across Europe's zero-emission waterborne ecosystem.

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PROJECT DELIVERABLES

LAUNCHED

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💡 D1.1 – Report on Systems Engineering Methodology for Modularization

(Published: July 2025)

Deliverable **D1.1** establishes the methodological backbone of SEASTARS by defining how **Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE)** is applied to modular vessel design.

The report:

- Introduces an MBSE framework tailored to maritime systems
- Defines modular architectures enabling technology substitution, scaling, and phased upgrades
- Supports both **retrofits** and **newbuilds**, reducing technical and investment risk

This deliverable underpins the development of the **SEASTARS Digital Modules Library**, forming the basis of the project's design and decision-support environment.

💡 D2.1 – Guide on Capella and Specification Tools

(Published: July 2025)

Deliverable **D2.1** provides a practical guide on the use of **Capella** and associated specification tools within the SEASTARS MBSE framework.

The report:

- Explains how Capella supports system modelling across multiple abstraction levels
- Guides partners in creating consistent **logical and physical system architectures**
- Ensures harmonised modelling practices across vessel types and technologies

D2.1 plays a critical role in enabling collaboration between technical partners and ensuring traceability between requirements, design choices, and performance evaluation within the SEASTARS Platform-as-a-Service.

💡 D6.1 – Communication & Dissemination Plan I

(Published: July 2025)

Deliverable **D6.1** defines SEASTARS' approach to external communication and stakeholder engagement.

It outlines:

- Stakeholder mapping and engagement pathways
- Communication channels (website, LinkedIn, newsletters, videos, events)
- A coherent visual identity for consistent project branding
- KPIs to monitor dissemination reach and impact

D6.1 ensures that SEASTARS results are not only developed, but also **shared, understood, and adopted** by the wider maritime community.

💡 D7.1 – Report on IP, Business Models and Expected Outcomes

(Published: December 2025 - confidential)

Deliverable **D7.1** establishes the foundation for the **commercialisation, IP management, and exploitation** of SEASTARS results.

The report:

- Defines the **project context and objectives**, combining MBSE, digital models, and techno-economic evaluation to enable decarbonisation-ready retrofits and newbuilds
- Describes the **Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)** concept and associated stakeholder engagement tactics
- Introduces innovative business models, including **Pay-As-You-Save (PAYS)**, **Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS)**, and **Shared-Savings ESCO** schemes
- Details **IP governance principles**, risk allocation strategies, and decision-support tools linking engineering proof with financing and certification workflows

D7.1 will guide subsequent exploitation deliverables (D7.2, D7.3) and pilot activities, ensuring a strong link between **technical innovation and market readiness**.

EVENTS & MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2026

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#1



LONDON INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING WEEK (LISW)

London, 16 September 2025

SEASTARS was represented by **Prof. Evangelos Boulougouris (University of Strathclyde)** and **Mr. Giorgios Kouris (AMC)** at the joint event organised by **MarRI-UK** and the **Department of Naval Architecture, Ocean and Marine Engineering, University of Strathclyde**.

The session, titled *“Role of international collaboration and research for the transition to net zero shipping”*, included two panel discussions and was moderated by Prof. Boulougouris. Discussions focused on how international research collaboration can accelerate innovation while addressing the challenges of achieving net-zero shipping.

Prof. Evangelos Boulougouris – University of Strathclyde (Professor of Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)
“Our participation in London International Shipping Week demonstrated how research-driven innovation can directly address real industry needs. Through SEASTARS, we are developing solutions that combine advanced engineering with practical applicability for shipowners navigating the energy transition.”

#3 EUROPORT EXHIBITION

Rotterdam, November 2025

SEASTARS was proudly showcased at **Europort 2025** within **HEMEXPO Hellenic Marine Equipment Manufacturers & Exporters’ stand (Booth 2220, Hall 2)**, featuring a dedicated SEASTARS corner. Participating partners included **HEMEXPO, ERMA FIRST, AURELIA, MARIN, and AMC**. During the exhibition, the consortium:

- Presented the **MBSE-driven Digital Twin Platform-as-a-Service**
- Discussed retrofit and newbuild decarbonisation pathways with shipowners, yards, and technology providers
- Exchanged views on alternative fuels, advanced propulsion, and scalable retrofitting strategies

Ms. Yvette Klinkenberg – MARIN (Senior Project Manager)

“Model-Based Systems Engineering is a key enabler for the maritime sector. Within SEASTARS, MBSE allows us to structure complexity, connect system choices, and ultimately implement a robust digital platform that supports scalable and future-proof vessel design.”

#2



ESN SUMMIT

Athens, October 2025

SEASTARS participated in the **ESN Summit** through **HEMEXPO**, represented by:

- Ms. Eleni Polychronopoulou – President
- Attila Akac – Senior Project Manager
- Christos Papakis – Executive Director
- Iliia Kazantzidou – Marketing Coordinator

The discussions centered on **short sea shipping decarbonisation**, sustainable financing, and realistic transition pathways for existing fleets.

Ms. Eleni Polychronopoulou (President of HEMEXPO) shared during the **ESN Summit 2025**:

“SEASTARS demonstrates how EU-funded innovation can directly support the decarbonisation of short sea shipping—by addressing today’s fleet realities while enabling zero-emission pathways for the future.”





UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & ROADMAP UPDATE

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DESIGN THINKING WORKSHOPS – 2026

SEASTARS will organise **5 Design Thinking Workshops** to co-create solutions for the **SEASTARS Platform-as-a-Service** with external experts.

DTW #1 – Thursday, 12 February 2026

📍 ATHINA Maritime Training Centre, Athens

DTW #2 – Tuesday, 21 April 2026

📍 Royal Institute of Naval Architects, London, UK

Each workshop will host 20–30 experts from:

- Shipowners & operators
- Shipyards & naval architects
- Marine equipment & technology providers
- Classification societies
- Financial institutions & investors
- Policymakers & regulators
- Research centres & academia

OPEN DAY @ POSIDONIA 2026

Wednesday, 3 June 2026

🕒 12:30–14:30

📍 Posidonia 2026 – Seminar Room 1B

SEASTARS will host an **Open Day** presenting project progress, early results, and innovative design concepts. The event will include expert panel discussions with sister EU projects addressing key maritime decarbonisation challenges.

More details will be shared in due course.

👉 We invite you to **subscribe to our newsletter via our website** and **follow our LinkedIn page** for updates.

GET INVOLVED

👉 Join upcoming workshops

💬 Share your expertise and operational insights

📺 Follow SEASTARS on LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram

🌐 Website: www.seastars-project.eu

✉ Contact: info@seastars-project.eu

CLOSING & OUTLOOK

SEASTARS continues to advance towards delivering **practical, scalable, and market-ready decarbonisation solutions** for the European maritime sector.

By combining **systems engineering, digital twins, and strong industry collaboration**, the project is transforming ambitious climate objectives into **actionable pathways for real vessels and real operations**.

Thank you for your continued interest and engagement.





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news, progress reports, and participate
in our events!

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Co-funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the
European Union's Horizon Innovation
Actions programme under Grant Agreement
No. 101192901.