

Airseas' Seawing sets sail with first installation on Louis Dreyfus Armateurs' *Ville de Bordeaux*, chartered by Airbus

Automated wind propulsion system developed by French tech pioneer Airseas is installed for the first time on a commercial ship to significantly reduce carbon emissions, following Bureau Veritas approval to begin operations at sea.

NANTES, 14 December 2021 – Airseas, a pioneer in wind propulsion solutions for shipping, has completed the first installation of its automated kite Seawing on a commercial vessel, marking an important milestone in the deployment of wind-assisted technologies to curb emissions from shipping.

The first Seawing system has been installed on the vessel *Ville de Bordeaux*, chartered by Airbus and operated by Louis Dreyfus Armateurs. The Ro-Ro ship, which transports major aircraft components between France and the United States, will deploy the 500m² Seawing on its monthly transatlantic journeys from January 2022, conducting six months of sea trials and testing ahead of its full operation..

Airseas has received formal approval from leading classification society Bureau Veritas to begin operations at sea, following three years of close collaboration on the development and early trials of the Seawing.

Founded by former Airbus engineers, Airseas is unique in its integration of expertise from the aeronautical sector, including digital twin and automation technology, to the maritime industry. This means that the Seawing can be safely deployed, operated and stored at the push of a button, and can be retrofitted on a ship in two days.

Airseas' full size Seawing is a 1000m² parafoil which flies at an altitude of 300 metres, capturing the strength of the wind to propel the vessel. Based on modelling and preliminary testing on land, Airseas estimates that the Seawing system will enable an average 20% reduction in fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Vincent Bernatets, CEO and Co-Founder of Airseas, said: "A decade ago, we embarked on the ambitious project of channelling our unique aviation expertise towards creating a cleaner and more sustainable shipping industry. Today, I am beyond proud to see that vision becoming reality, with our first Seawing ready to make a tangible difference for our planet. This first installation marks a significant milestone not only for Airseas, but also for wind and other renewable propulsion technologies in general. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, the world needs to see a drastic reduction in carbon emissions now. In shipping, we can achieve this by using the full set of tools we have available to us today. Wind propulsion is one of these and will play an essential role in helping shipping achieve its much-needed decarbonisation transition."

Laurent Leblanc, Senior Vice President Technical & Operations at Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore, said: "This important milestone follows three years of close and fruitful collaboration on the development and early trials of the Seawing, supporting Airseas' safety-first approach and validating the reliability of the system. As a class society, Bureau Veritas has a key role to play to support safe innovation, and this is why we have developed comprehensive rules on wind propulsion systems earlier this year. At BV, we are dedicated to help the maritime sector navigate the challenges of the energy transition, and we fully believe that wind propulsion technology represents a key opportunity to start decarbonising the maritime sector immediately."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Airseas:

French wind propulsion technology leader Airseas combines kite technology with an automated flight control system, which was developed with know-how from the aerospace industry, to meet the maritime decarbonization challenge by using the widely available and unlimited power of the wind. The company was founded in 2016 by former engineers of Airbus who had the ambition to bring together their aviation expertise with their passion for sailing and dedication for the environment.

About Bureau Veritas:

Bureau Veritas is a world leader in laboratory testing, inspection and certification services. Created in 1828, the Group has 78,000 employees located in more than 1,600 offices and laboratories around the globe. Bureau Veritas helps its clients improve their performance by offering services and innovative solutions, in order to ensure that their assets, products, infrastructure and processes meet standards and regulations in terms of quality, health and safety, environmental protection and social responsibility.

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