PRESS RELEASE

Airseas validates automated dynamic flight with projected initial 16% fuel and emissions reductions

Automated dynamic flight validation represents a major milestone in Seawing's technical development, with next rounds of sea and land-based trials planned to further advance performance

Nantes (France), 26th October 2023 – Airseas, a provider of wind propulsion systems for the maritime sector, has announced that its latest sea trials have revealed projected fuel and emissions reductions of 16% based on a normalised transatlantic voyage. These projections are based on traction data collected during the validation of automated dynamic flights of the Seawing, where the kite flies in "figure of eight" patterns to multiply the traction delivered to the ship, helping to reduce its fuel consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The 16% projected fuel and emissions savings were calculated from the tonnes of traction measured on the Seawing system during the final round of sea trials on the 5,291 deadweight tonne (DWT) ro-ro vessel *Ville de Bordeaux,* owned by Louis Dreyfus Armateurs*,* during transatlantic voyages. This initial performance data is in line with the Seawing's broader development roadmap aimed at delivering average savings of 20%.

Crucially, the trials have also enabled Airseas to validate the technology's automation system, which successfully controlled the Seawing's dynamic flights without any human intervention. This builds on earlier technical achievements in the sea trials on the *Ville de Bordeaux*, including the validation of automated take-off and landing phases, the first traction flights with the kite in "static" position, and dynamic flights that increase the kite's traction power.

The next steps of the Seawing development roadmap will focus on delivering the kite's full performance, with tests in ground conditions at Airseas' new R&D centre in Dakhla, Morocco, as well as sea trials on a 211,982 DWT capesize vessel owned by Japanese shipowner "K" Line, which purchased five Seawings with options for up to 51 in total.

Vincent Bernatets, CEO of Airseas, commented:
"This latest milestone is yet another demonstration of our steady progress in bringing to life an entirely new technology that will play a vital role in shipping's decarbonisation. The maritime industry will need every available solution on the road to net-zero, and our aim is to enable a greater number of shipowners to take control of their emissions by harnessing the free and widely available energy of the wind. We look forward to the next stages of the Seawing development, focused on enhancing performance as we progress towards larger-scale industrialisation."

Mathieu Reguerre, Flying components Project Manager at Airseas, added:
"Validating automated dynamic flights is a huge technical achievement and a major milestone in the development of the Seawing. We are pleased with our initial performance figures, which enable us to progress with the confidence that the system is working as planned, and that we are on track to deliver even more fuel and emissions savings as we fine-tune the system to optimise its performance."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

About Airseas
French wind propulsion technology leader Airseas combines kite technology with expertise from the aerospace industry to help the maritime sector meet its decarbonisation ambitions by using the widely available and unlimited power of the wind. Based in Nantes (France), 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. Airseas has developed Seawing, a wing designed to harness the power of the wind, aiming to reduce fuel consumption and emissions by 20% on average.

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