

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bureau Veritas joins the International Windship Association

PARIS – July 15, 2019: The decarbonisation drive is gearing up to be the defining issue faced by the shipping sector in the coming decades and the industry is searching for low carbon and zero emissions technologies that will deliver on the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) initial strategy of reducing emissions by at least 50% by 2050. One family of technologies that is seeing an upsurge of interest in the industry is wind-assist and primary wind propulsion solutions. Today the Paris headquartered classification society Bureau Veritas (BV) announced that it is joining the International Windship Association (IWSA), the not-for-profit organisation that for the last 5 years has been bringing together wind propulsion projects, research organisations and projects and promoting the wind as a credible, viable and increasingly economic option for commercial vessels.

Panos Koutsourakis Global Technology Leader, Sustainable Ships for Bureau Veritas commenting said:

“A key focus area for BV is supporting safety and new technology to reduce emission from shipping – and one area we are looking at is wind powered, or wind assisted, shipping. The time is right to further develop the wind propulsion sector and for us to help in supporting the development of safe performance objectives. The extensive work that IWSA has been doing in this field makes it the natural choice to work with and to support.”

BV's membership will bring a wealth of experience to IWSA and fits well with the association's longer term development approach, with the establishment of regional wind propulsion 'centres of excellence' or 'hubs' around the world. The first one, IWSA Europe – Atlantic, was set up over a year ago in Nantes, France and has been busy clustering together wind propulsion projects, ship builders, engineering and design companies along with maritime associations and regional government. This will be followed this year with clusters in the North Sea & Baltic, Pacific and North America. Nantes is an important centre for BV, where it has a presence focused on providing engineering services through Bureau Veritas Solutions.

Gavin Allwright, Secretary General of IWSA states; “We are delighted to welcome Bureau Veritas aboard at such a critical time in the industry. BV recognises that low carbon technologies such as wind that can deliver significant fuel savings on retrofits and even better performance as fully optimised new build primary wind vessels is a vital component in the race to decarbonise shipping and we are looking forward to working together to develop the sector further.”

There have already been big strides forward over the last couple of years, with the emergence of companies engaging, testing and installing wind propulsion systems; Maersk, Renault, MOL, Airbus, Viking Lines, Drax, Ultrabulk, Chantiers De L'Atlantique, Wallenius Marine, Fehn, CMCS, Enercon, Blue Planet Shipping are just some of the names involved. . This pace of development is slated to continue, with an EU commissioned report on the wind propulsion market in 2017 predicting up to over 10,000 wind propulsion installations by 2030.

Panos Koutsourakis, commenting further, said, “We have been looking at wind with clients for some time now and we are delighted to join IWSA. We are able to provide the independent testing, inspection and certification services to help stakeholders address both the safety and performance issues involved.”

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS

Bureau Veritas (BV): is a world leader in laboratory testing, inspection and certification (TIC) services. It is the largest TIC serving the marine and offshore industries, providing classification, certification and technical services - including fuel testing.

Bureau Veritas works hand-in-hand with clients to help them optimize the safety and performance of their ships and offshore assets, and to deliver the highest standards of reliability, sustainability and operational efficiency.

BV is active across all ship types. Additionally, it provides leading expertise in a wide variety of specialized vessels including LNG carriers, ultra large container vessels, FSRU/FSUs, expedition class cruise ships, dredger and tugs.

A key focus area for BV is supporting safety and new technology including wind powered or wind assisted shipping. BV is the classification market leader in new orders for LNG fueled ships and for LNG bunker vessels. It recently issued the first class rules and guidance for FSRUs and FSUs.

Created in 1828, the Group has 75,000 employees in about 1,400 offices and laboratories around the world. Bureau Veritas is listed on Euronext Paris and belongs to the Next 20 index.

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The International Windship Association (IWSA): facilitates and promotes wind propulsion solutions for commercial shipping worldwide and brings together all parties in the development of a windship sector to shape industry and government attitudes and policies.

IWSA is a member driven, not-for-profit association made up of wind propulsion technology suppliers and ship development projects, designers, naval architects, engineers, academics, NGO's and seafarers with five areas of activity:

Network – grouping like-minded organisations and individuals sharing ideas, skills, technical and market information for the development of commercial windships.

Promote – promoting the economic value of wind propulsion to the industry

Educate – acting as a central information hub for the wind propulsion sector, ship owners and operators, shipyards, ports, governments, equipment producers, the media, NGOs, and the wider public.

Incubate – securing funding streams, project collaboration, grant applications, research and the pooling of resources.

Facilitate – establishing common approaches/criteria for all stages of project development, support stakeholders, advise and lobby legislative bodies on policies, activities, funding and incentives required to retrofit existing ships and build new commercial windships.

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