



# Press kit



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# 1 - Presentation

The Energy Observer project was born in 2013 from the commitment of Victorien Erussard, merchant navy officer and ocean racer". Aware that it is now vital to commit to the planet, he gathered around him a complementary team a complementary team of sailors, scientists, engineers and reporters to create the first self-sufficient vessel capable of drawing its energy from nature whilst also preserving it.

The dream became a reality 4 years later, when the Energy Observer vessel was launched for the first time. Developed from a legendary multiple award-winning catamaran, Energy Observer is a laboratory for the ecological transition designed to push back the limits of zero-emission technologies. Hydrogen, solar, wind and water power, all the solutions are experimented with, tested and optimised here with a view to making clean energies a practical reality that is accessible to all.

Criss-crossing the oceans in a bid to get out and meet those who are coming up with sustainable solutions for the planet every day, Energy Observer has become a movement, a round the world Odyssey, where every stopover is an opportunity to learn, to understand and to share the different energies.

Energy Observer has received the High Patronage of Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic. French ambassador for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, supported by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Unesco, the European Union, Irena and Ademe.



# The mission of Energy Observer

## Innovation to accelerate the energy transition

Energy Observer is a laboratory where engineers and researchers are developing new technologies in order to make renewable energies a reality for all. The latest, cutting-edge technologies in terms of hydrogen, batteries, solar and wind power are tested in the most hostile environment: the ocean. These have been optimized over the course of a 40,000 nautical miles voyage. The variety and diversity of renewable energies are central to resilient zero-carbon energy systems developed by our engineers with the support of our manufacturing partners. The development of reliable, sustainable, noise-free, affordable energy solutions is at the heart of the energy transition.

## A journey of exploring into the initiatives changing our world

The Energy Observer adventure is also a historic 7-year around-the-world Odyssey to meet the pioneers reinventing the industry, agriculture and energy sector in an attempt to live in a more sustainable way. The focus is on positive and concrete innovations that are available today and show that a better future is possible.

As the first French ambassador of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN in 2015, Energy Observer carry France's message on the urgent need to preserve the planet.

## Raising awareness

At each stopover, the team meet women and men who are carrying out local and replicable projects. "Energy Observer Solutions" is the showcase for this ecosystem of committed players around the world, thanks to short films broadcast freely on a dedicated platform. The Ministry of the Ecological Transition, Ademe, the International Association of Universities, Unesco and SDSN support the project in identifying pioneers and solutions around the world.

Furthermore, at each major stopover of this Odyssey, the team is deploying an open-access exhibition village designed to raise awareness among all audiences of the challenges of the energy and ecological transition. Families, students, elected officials and local industrial decision-makers, all are invited to dive into the Energy Observer adventure of playful and immersive way. This travelling exhibition welcomes each year nearly 100,000 people.





# 2- 2017–2020

## The Odyssey's key figures

4 years  
of sailing

- France, 2017
- Mediterranean, 2018
- Northern Europe, 2019
- Atlantic, 2020

+ 30 000

nautical miles travelled

63 stopovers

of which 15 with the exhibition village

28 visited  
countries

300 000  
visitors

welcomed in the village

1 transatlantic  
crossing

in energy autonomy

13 documentary  
films produced

1 sailing  
0 emissions  
0 fine particles  
0 noise

beyond the Arctic Circle

60 episodes

of the Energy Observer  
Solutions web series

more than  
230 videos

on our YouTube channel

## 3 - Focus on 2020

### More than 10 000 nautical miles thanks to renewable energies and hydrogen

In an uncertain global context due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Odyssey program for 2020 has been completely revised, with iconic stopovers, such as Tokyo and California coast, postponed to 2021. However, these events did not prevent our experimental vessel and its crew from continuing its mission, while adapting to new directives and composing with borders closures. As the pandemic hit, the vessel made her longest navigation to date, leaving Brittany, sailing down the coast of Africa and crossing the Atlantic to the Caribbeans. A 4,500 nautical miles journey in total autonomy. From there, the exploration of overseas territories continued as far as French Guiana, covering a total of over 10,000 nautical miles. And the year 2021 will see many more ambitious crossings!

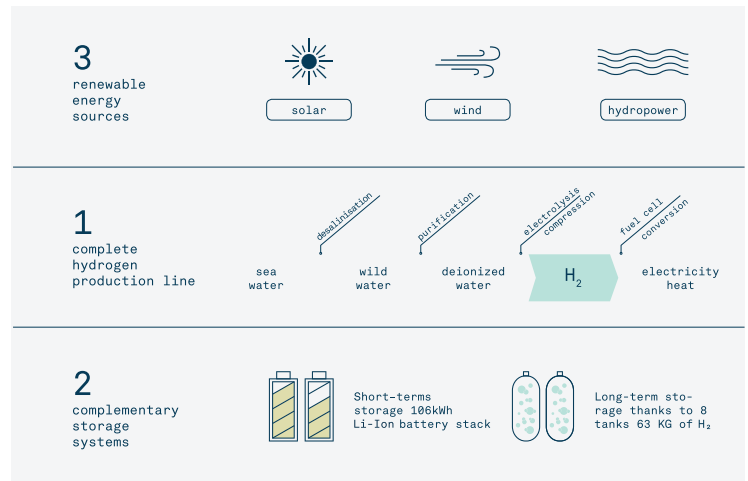
A performance achieved thanks to the total energy autonomy of the onboard systems, an example of resilience that is particularly well suited to the current situation and reassuring for the continuation of the Odyssey.





# A reliable energy mix

On board technologies, combining multiple sources -solar, wind and hydropower- and forms of storage, batteries and above all hydrogen, are the forerunners of tomorrow's smart energy grids, which can be reproduced on a large scale, everywhere and for everyone.



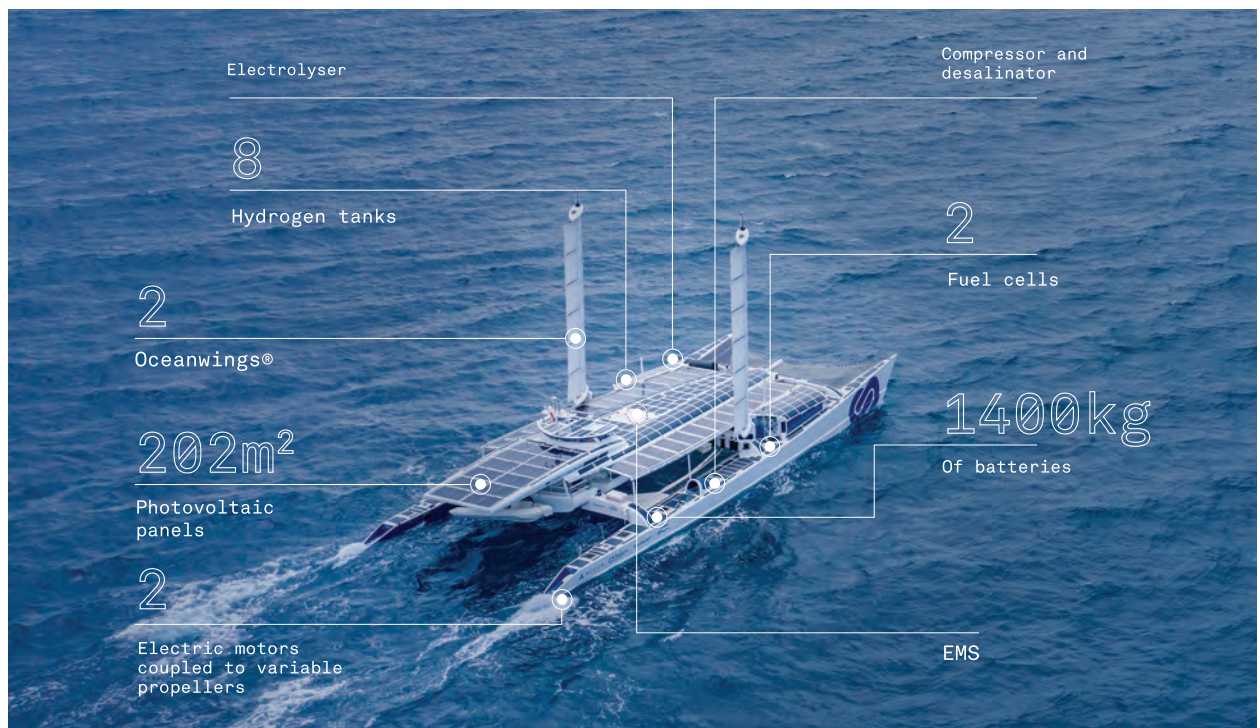
## Hydrogen, the keystone of the Energy Observer system

To date, hydrogen is the best ally of the renewable energies. It is the lightest and most abundant chemical element in the universe, and has an energy density three times higher than traditional fuels. As a result, hydrogen allows the storage of excess energy from renewable sources and makes it possible to offset their intermittence. If all the energy was stored in traditional batteries, the ship would be a third heavier!

Today, the 63 kg of hydrogen stored on board provides 2 MW of electricity, i.e. the average consumption of a household of 4 for a month. While maritime and land mobility meet everincreasing demands for power, speed and reliability, hydrogen is currently the only energy carrier that offers a credible alternative to fossil fuels without impacting the environment.

By testing an energy system based on a mix of renewable energies and hydrogen, Energy Observer is paving the way for multiple land and maritime applications that can be replicated at the level of a user, a neighborhood or even an entire city.

© Energy Observer Productions - George Conty



# 2020 ENERGY BALANCE

Zero emissions - Zero fines particles - Zero noise

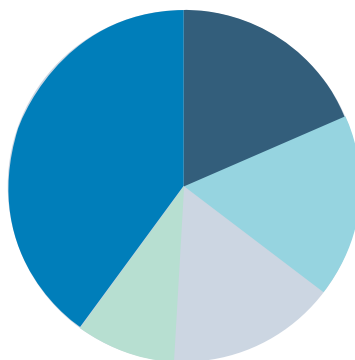
March 2, 2020 ▶ December 16, 2020



**16%**  
Life on board



**18%**  
Electric propulsion



**40%**

Energy supply through the wings

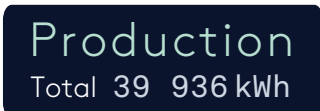
**16%**

Controls orders

**10%**

Easements

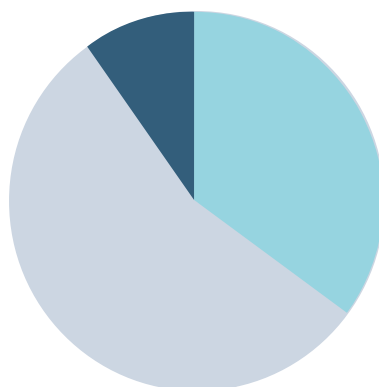
\* This figure takes into account the full hydrogen reserves at the time of the boat's departure.



**56%**  
REN contributions  
(solar)



**7%**  
Hydrogen  
supply



**0%**

Hydrogeneration

**37%**

OceanWings®  
contributions

Estimation of the aerodynamic contribution of the Oceanwings® on the consumption of the engines and the production of energy on board.



# 4 - The Odyssey through to 2024: from Tokyo to Paris via Dubai, amidst a series of international events







© Energy Observer Productions - George Conty

## A short optimization refit

The 5th optimisation refit, which took place in le Marin, in Martinique, was to prepare the boat and her systems for even longer crossing, including the upcoming trans-pacific.

The first task involved the optimization of the hydrogen fuel cell -the high-performance REXH<sub>2</sub>® developed by EODev in collaboration with Toyota- based on the data collected over the 10,000 nautical miles journey of its usage.

Note that the REXH<sub>2</sub>® fuel cell - compressor – inverter set, installed back in 2019, boasts a maximum power output of 60 kW (though it is operated at around 50% of its potential to optimize its output). Its reduced weight and its compactness, together with a high level of reliability, which has been tried and tested on thousands of cars and heavy vehicles, mean that a whole array of new applications can be considered.

The variable-pitch propellers, installed in 2019, have also been the subject of extensive studies into their performance and corrosion susceptibility. Furthermore, some of the photovoltaic panels underwent maintenance. Indeed, the team worked on some innovative encapsulation systems for the flexible solar panels in recent years, which have been severely put to the test by the tropical temperatures and the significant UV radiation.

Finally, this latest refit has enabled Energy Observer to finalize the training of a new systems engineer, Vincent Reynaud, who is now part of the crew.



## The sailing program



The boat set sail again from Martinique on February 3rd to cross the Panama Canal by mid-February, a canal that links the Atlantic with the Pacific ocean and where nearly 14,000 boats pass through each year. From there, a 10-day navigation will take her to the Galapagos Islands, a Unesco biosphere reserve which greatly inspired Charles Darwin in his theory of evolution.

© Panama Canal

Unesco has been partnering Energy Observer since 2016, with the joint aim of promoting and raising awareness about sustainable energies. Renewable energies will be the key to protecting the lands and oceans. The partnership integrates the [Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission](#) ↗ for ocean science and [The Man and the Biosphere Programme \(MAB\)](#) ↗ for biodiversity conservation. The MAB celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2021.

### Bound for California and Tokyo

Following discovery of the Galapagos archipelago, the crew will embark on a month-long sea passage to reach Los Angeles, in California.

This region, considered for a long time to be the final frontier, is today demonstrating a remarkable pioneering spirit in terms of energy and ecological transition, in a country largely fueled by hydrocarbons.

With its megacities, its oil-producing tradition and its water stress, the State of California is particularly exposed to climate change, large fires and the saturation of air polluting particles. Recent dramatic weather events have pushed the state to invest heavily in sustainable solutions with such bodies as the CCI (California Climate Investments), setting the most drastic standards in terms of emissions, as issued by the CARB (California Air Resources Board), to become an international reference. Hydrogen is used widely here along the entire Californian coast, with the highest concentration in the world of hydrogen cars (over 7,000 in 2019) and a target of 5-million zero-emission vehicles in 2030, compared with 350,000 today.

The first hydrogen-powered lorries was designed in Los Angeles and proves today that hydrogen power can carry heavy loads. This fuel is now easily accessible at regular service stations, a reality that stimulates a new generation of entrepreneurs, designers and engineers to push the zero-emission technology further. The State of California has committed to switch to 100% renewable energies by 2045 and is achieving this goal with projects like Solar Star, the largest solar park in the country, which features over 1.7-million photovoltaic panels.



© Yirang Ding

After a stopover in the Golden State, the ship will cross half the Pacific Ocean to reach Hawaii, the only island state of the US. The first stopover of this trans-pacific is highly symbolic in the round-the-world Odyssey. Only last year the energetically autonomous ship crossed the Atlantic while countries around the world shut their borders due to the pandemic. While the sanitary situation modified the ship's itinerary, it did not stop its mission of promoting safer and greener energy sources for a more prosperous future. In Hawaii, the crew will investigate all the various renewable energies that the rich tropical environment is offering: wind, solar, wave-energy, geo- and ocean-thermal energies. While the state remains today highly dependent on fossil fuels, threatening its natural habitat, other solutions are possible and being tested now.

## From New Caledonia to Japan

Energy Observer will then set course for Noumea in New Caledonia, before rounding off her 2021 Odyssey in Tokyo, Japan.

This French collectivity 17 000 km away from Metropolitan France is a large archipelago in the southwest Pacific Ocean. Grande Terre, the main island, harbors the second largest reef system in the world after the Australian Great Barrier Reef. However, the neocaledonian coral reefs and lagoon surpass the Great Barrier Reef in coral and fish diversity. A unique ecosystem listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Despite its natural resources and abundance of renewable energy sources, New Caledonia was still 97% dependent on fossil fuels in 2019, with over 5.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted a year. However, the government aims to reduce the collectivity's CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 35% and double the renewable energy production by 2030. Energy Observer arrives in the archipelago to investigate the actions being undertaken to reach these green goals.





© YL Motion

The ship's itinerary through the Pacific, from New Caledonia to Japan, will allow for a deeper exploration of the Pacific Island Nations and a better understanding of the specific challenges each of these countries face in terms of energy security, ecosystem preservation and management of climate change impacts. While often seen as idyllic holidays destination for westerners, most of these islands are at the forefront of the fight against global warming. Having contributed only marginally to the global rise in temperature, these population have to face its effects daily, whether it is through sea level rise engulfing their land or water temperatures bleaching their reef. Large number of people are seeing their natural resources disappear at an alarming rate, making the need for a global ecological transition abundantly clear to them. Energy Observer wants to encounter these impacted populations and investigate the different solutions that are being tested on a local scale.

### Japan, a major stopover for Energy Observer

Japan's interest for hydrogen dates back to the seventies, when the first oil crisis resulted in massive investment in fuel cell technologies. More recently, the Fukushima disaster further pushed the country to prioritize hydrogen as an energy vector, for its mobility as well as for broader energy storage. An array of spectacular initiatives are placing hydrogen at the center of Japanese cities of tomorrow. Serious investments have been granted to develop transport and infrastructure based on its use. The country's strategy, together with the road map adopted in 2019, allows for the diversification of hydrogen uses and for its production at large scale, making it economically competitive against other fuels.

## 2022-2024: from Asia to Paris

In 2022, the Odyssey will continue through Vietnam, Taiwan and Singapore, whose exponential economic growth is matched by an increasing climate vulnerability. Even more than in Europe, the impacts of climate change and pollution are becoming hard to manage for Asian metropolises, their atmospheric pollution, for example, is reaching unbearable levels. The vessel will then head to the Indian Ocean and the African coast, all the way down to South Africa.

Energy Observer will testify to the fundamental interrelationship between the 17 Sustainable Development Goals; how can we preserve the environment without guaranteeing access to clean energy for all?

In 2023, the boat will travel to Brazil, the Caribbean and the East Coast of America, in preparation for a return transatlantic crossing from New York. A journey that will coincide with the 78th session of the UN General Assembly. Finally, 2024 will be the return to France and Paris for the Energy Observer teams. The city of light is set to host the Olympic Games, and has some very ambitious goals to reduce the event's environmental impact!

Energy Observer will be hosted by the French Pavilion at the World Expo during the Oceans fortnight to be held from March 18 to 31, 2022.

The project's presence is fully in line with the ambitions of the French Pavilion: to testify of French excellence and savoir-faire by promoting innovations, talents and skills in the renewable sector. The Pavilion's challenge during the World Expo is also to demonstrate France's commitment to building a greener future through political, economic, cultural and social initiatives and actions. This commitment is illustrated by their guideline, which aims at the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -which Energy Observer is the first French ambassador.

© French Pavilion - Dubai World Expo 2022





*"Over the next four years, we're going to witness the development of numerous green hydrogen projects and with them the emergence of some virtuous new solutions. We're convinced that once the boat returns to France, there will be green hydrogen there at an affordable price, which major events like the Olympic Games will be able to benefit from".*

Victorien Erussard



## Our program around the world (2017-2024)

2019 Northern Europe  
2020 Atlantic  
2021 California, Asia

2022 Singapore, Indian Ocean  
2023 Brazil and USA  
2024 France

## A resourceful and complementary team

Aboard the boat, the founder, the captains and professional sailors pilot this extraordinary vessel. Mechanics, engineers and technicians ensure the smooth operation of the on-board systems, whilst the reporters and cameramen document the stopovers and share Energy Observer's journey around the world.



© Energy Observer Productions - George Conty



© Energy Observer Productions - Francine Kreiss

## A new scientist onboard

The crew welcomes aboard a doctor in marine biology, Katia Nicolet. Her arrival will develop the scientific content of the media production whilst building an expertise on topics related to coastal habitat preservation and maritime pollution.

Katia began exploring the globe from a very early age and her curiosity for the natural world prompted her to launch into a career in science. Fascinated by the ocean, she moved to Australia for her PhD, where she investigated factors increasing coral diseases. During her thesis, she witnessed first hand the impact of global warming on marine ecosystems.

During her university studies, she also worked as a naturalist guide on expedition cruise ships and later became expedition leader for the Compagnie du Ponant. This experience gave her a broader understanding of the natural world. Through her trips, Katia tries to share her scientific knowledge and her love of nature to raise awareness on the current climate crisis. She joined Energy Observer in the hope of accelerating the transition towards a future more respectful of the planet.



# 5 - An SDGs ambassador role strengthened by the development of the Endowment Fund

## 17 goals, a real roadmap for sustainable development

Appointed first French Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals by the Ministry of the Ecological transition, Energy Observer mission is to accelerate the energy and ecological transition through the promotion of local initiatives and sustainable solutions for the planet.

All over the world, women and men are devoting their energy to the creation of sustainable solutions for a more harmonious world. Energy Observer is meeting these change-makers, to promote their local initiatives and actions. These actions relate to a variety of subjects such as circular economy, responsible consumption, gender equality, responsible agriculture,

protection of life on land and at sea, etc. This role of ambassador is emphasized during the stopovers, but also through documentary films and the “Energy Observer Solutions” digital platform. This platform promotes the solutions encountered around the world and educates about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their interrelationship. Doing so, Energy Observer builds a database of “Solutions”, a silver lining of positive and inspiring actions around the world, despite the multiple challenges faced by humanity. Thousands of protagonists globally are working to make this world a better place, and they deserve to be known.

© Energy Observer Productions - Amélie Conty



## Energy Observer Solutions

Energy Observer Solutions is a digital platform launched in 2019, though production began from the very start of the project. It highlights solutions regarding ecological and inclusive transition identified by Energy Observer's editorial and scientific community all over the world and directed by the pioneers who are reinventing tomorrow's world. All these Solutions are being grouped together on the Energy Observer Solutions platform and illustrated through short episodes through the prism of Sustainable Development Goals, in connection with the Ministry of the Ecological Transition, the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) created in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, the International Association of Universities (IAU), Ademe and Unesco. These inspirational and positive 2 to 3-minute videos, whose tone and format are geared around the social networks, are designed to raise awareness beyond the borders about these forces for change by giving visibility to their solutions and their local projects.

### Educational editorial and audiovisual programs

Energy Observer has produced nearly 13 documentaries since its launch:

→ A series of 12 documentaries broadcast on the Canal + Group channels, "Energy Observer, the Odyssey for the Future ®". From Saint Malo to Saint Petersburg, this collection of films traces the lives of the crew aboard Energy Observer and their encounters around the world.

→ A 90-minute video was also broadcast in prime time during the COP 25.

This CANAL+ documentary creation was produced by Energy Observer Productions and Upside Télévision and directed by Jérôme Delafosse. Entitled "Energy Observer, les messagers de la Terre" (Energy Observer, the Earth's messengers), it traces both the human adventure and the technological challenges taken on by Energy Observer during her passage from Saint Petersburg to Spitsbergen whilst self-sufficient in energy, and during encounters with committed communities in Europe, Asia, South America and Africa to protect our children's future.

Other science-focused documentaries are expected to emerge and address major societal issues related to energy and biodiversity.

### Live content from the ship

Energy Observer also shares live content: log books about the highlights of the Odyssey (life aboard, deciphering of the ecosystems by a scientist or biologist, the making of the film, the boat's technical operation, perspectives on the major world days...), a way of immersing oneself in the daily life of the crew.

This educational content, accessible to all, enables a greater understanding of the key challenges of renewable energies and ecological transition.





## 6 - New goals: fighting maritime pollution and educating engineers about hydrogen production and usage



© Energy Observer Productions  
Francine Kreiss

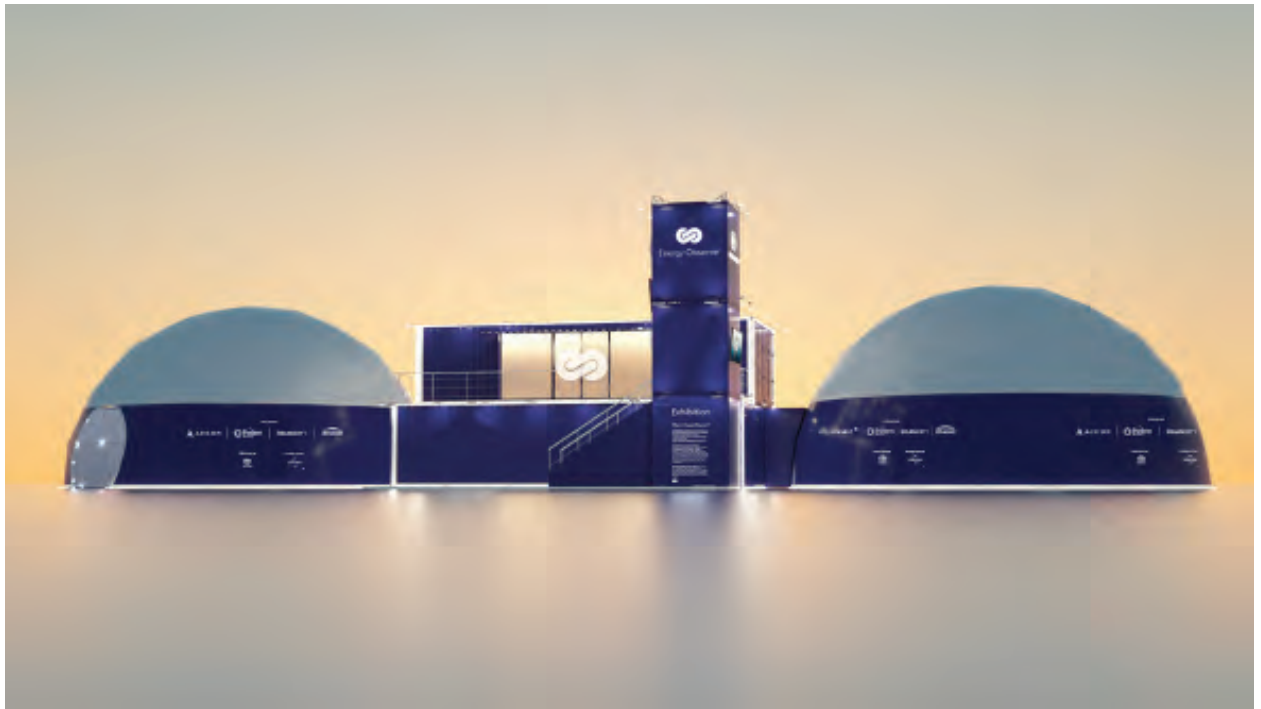
In addition to the actions to raise awareness about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the Group is developing its 'non-profit' calls for action via its Energy Observer Foundation capital fund. To bolster its impact, three new priority areas now form the nub of its community action.

As they advance, sharing expertise on its developments in the field of sustainable energies, which fuel the zero-emissions energy mix on the self-sufficient vessel, Energy Observer. This will include collaborations and exchanges with university laboratories, researchers and manufacturers via cycles of conferences or groups of experts. Whether this is a question of the economic, environmental and societal impact, innovations in progress or the technological impact in terms of usage, today exchanging ideas to strengthen expertise appears to be a strategic way to enhance the performance and competitiveness of sustainable energies and hydrogen.

Circulating scientific knowledge with regards maritime pollution and piloting research programmes about atmospheric and noise pollution in particular.

In constant motion, the global merchant fleet transports over 80% of merchandise around the world in response to the ever-increasing demand for trade, transport, food and fun. These vessels, together with the intensification of their meanderings, are leading to massive pollution of the marine environment. The 'laboratory' mission based on technological innovations affecting Energy Observer's energy remains key. Today though, given the climate emergency and the research opportunities opened up by a zero-emissions, zero-noise vessel, this has to be coupled with a research mission to help gauge the impact of pollution from boats on ecosystems.

Sharing this know-how on sustainable energies with students and young professionals and training them in the uses of hydrogen in particular. In fact, having built Energy Observer, having tested the on-board innovative technologies and the validated and improved performance, it seemed essential to explain to the students and the relevant professionals each of the innovations, the sustainable energy mix, the role of hydrogen in particular, as well as to prepare them for tomorrow's new professions in this sector. This will involve itinerant theoretical training in mobile form so as to be in a position to move around the whole region. This will also find expression in practical training, so as to be in a position to handle and utilise these technologies as well as understand them.



© Kadeg Boucher

## 7 - A brand new immersive and digital exhibition



© Laurène Blottière

Throughout the Odyssey, an itinerant exhibition is deployed during all the main stopovers to welcome the public free of charge and provide them with a unique experience. Through an interactive and educational exhibition, as well as projections, it is a real window on the world of today and tomorrow. It is a place of meetings, exchanges and discoveries on the theme of the energy and ecological transition and has welcomed nearly 300,000 visitors over the last 3 years.

For its 2021 tour, the village has been given a new look. Now equipped with containers, thanks to our partner CMA CGM, and its two geodesic domes, the exhibition will unveil to visitors a brand new route and a new immersive and digital experience.

The visitors' journey is now punctuated by various themes, such as the project's missions, the on-board technologies, the key stopovers, our role as ambassador, as well as the practical applications, which can be developed both at sea and on land. One of the containers is also intended to be historical by combining the histories of energy transition, ecological awareness and awareness of self, together with that of the Energy Observer laboratory in partnership with Ademe.

The objective of this timeline is clear: to show that the development of renewable energies, green hydrogen and the intelligent energy mix is an answer to climate emergency.



## 8 - An international multi-partner project

In light of the urgent struggle to combat climate change, it is essential to rethink our model of society: to push the envelope in terms of inter-sectorial cooperation, switch the traditional models of competitiveness, halt the quest for unlimited growth in a world with limited resources...

To take up these challenges, many companies are searching for new models for working together. Energy Observer intends to become a catalyst to enable these committed protagonists to realise their projects and really step things up a gear in terms of ecological transition. In total, there are already 60 companies and institutions from the public and private sector, who are responsible for making this expedition possible.

This adventure exists thanks to the financial, technological and human commitment of a solid cluster of partners, the key ones being: Accor and AccorInvest, Thélem assurances, Delanchy Group and Air Liquide. Official partners and sponsors like Toyota and CCR, Strategic partner such as CMA CGM, as well as several official supporters like Petit Forestier, the BenTouch Group, Lamotte, Chereau and the Crédit Maritime Grand Ouest, are all making a specific contribution and often become a key player in the programme.



© Energy Observer Productions - Amélie Conty

## → Project instigator



© Energy Observer Productions  
Francine Kreiss

Victorien Erussard  
Chairman, founder and captain

As a versatile officer in the merchant navy, he has been sailing on several vessels as far as Antarctica. However, this professional sailor has also graced a series of race podiums over the past 10 years, from the Route du Rhum, to the Transat Jacques Vabre to the Quebec-St Malo. During one of these transatlantic passages, a broken diesel generator in the middle of the Atlantic made it impossible for him to helm his machine albeit surrounded by solar, wind power and hydropower and Victorien realized that the finest victories are those that have some meaning. At that point, he decided to invest his time in the race for smart energy rather than the race for trophies.

## → The patrons



© Jean-Sébastien Evrard

«Energy Observer, the first hydrogen-powered vessel to navigate its way around the globe, is more than a boat. She's a demonstrator and detector of solutions. She is shaping a future that is already upon us. It's a long-term evolutionary project, which is creating a wave of positive energy and is a unique showcase for innovations regarding ecological and energy transition.»

Nicolas Hulot  
Founder of the Fondation pour la nature et l'homme



© Jean-Sébastien Evrard

«Today, the world of energy is undergoing a genuine revolution by integrating more and more renewable energies using different mediums: electricity, hydrogen and heat. Connecting these is a real challenge, which is even more ambitious on something like a boat. Energy Observer is an early indication of how tomorrow's energy networks will be on land.»

Florence Lambert  
CEO Genvia and former Director of CEA-Liten

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#EnergyObserver

