

FACT SHEET

June 2023



Sustainable urban freight transport with autonomous zero-emission vessels

Interreg
North Sea Region
AVATAR

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

AVATAR vessel

Project partners Opleidingscentrum Hout en Bouw (OHb), E. Van Wingen NV and SEAFAR cooperated in the development of a new urban test vessel with a capacity of 25 ton, zero-emission and highly automated. This vessel is part of a fleet of urban vessels that is being used for test sailings of city freight distribution.

OHb took care of the realization of the hull of the AVATAR vessel. In January 2022, the hull of the new AVATAR vessel arrived in Ghent, on the instructions of Opleidingscentrum Hout en Bouw.

The team of E. Van Wingen co-developed the new AVATAR vessel with the appropriate engine and equipment. SEAFAR has also been involved in this development and in the automation part. The necessary equipment has been built in and communication between software of SEAFAR and E. Van Wingen was set up. All in order to be able to steer the AVATAR vessel (located in Ghent) from the SEAFAR remote control center in Antwerp.

The new vessel has been launched in the water on 10/5/2023.

Successful tests and demonstrations took place in June 2023 (also during the final AVATAR event).

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AVATAR project

The AVATAR project aims to tackle challenges of city freight distribution by developing, testing and assessing adequate technologies and business models for urban (highly) autonomous zero-emission Inland waterway transport (IWT) solutions.



Source: POM Oost-Vlaanderen

