

## Press Release

BERGEN, 23 APRIL 2026

### MARINER PARTNERSHIP - THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN EXISTING MARITIME FUEL CELL SYSTEM DEMONSTRATORS AND A MODULAR MULTI-MW INDUSTRIAL PLATFORM

Co-funded by the European Commission through the Clean Hydrogen Partnership, MARINER project aims to develop, validate and demonstrate a modular 1 MW PEM (proton-exchange membrane) fuel cell system, scalable to  $\geq 10$  MW, meeting maritime requirements in terms of performance, durability, safety, certification and cost.

By addressing key technological and industrial challenges, Mariner seeks to bridge the gap between today's pilot-scale demonstrators and the large-scale, market-ready solutions required for the decarbonisation of maritime transport. The project brings together a multidisciplinary consortium of industrial leaders, research organisations and maritime stakeholders, covering the full value chain—from component development and system integration to testing, certification and industrial uptake.

**From April 22–23, 2026, the project officially kicked off** with an event held at NORCE's premises in Bergen, Norway, bringing together partners from across Europe. The meeting marked the beginning of a collaborative journey to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission energy solutions for the maritime sector.

The two-day event combined traditional plenary sessions with interactive workshops designed to foster collaboration, align expectations, and build strong working relationships among consortium members. Partners had the opportunity to present their roles, exchange perspectives, and collectively shape the project's roadmap, ensuring a shared vision from the outset.

“Launching Mariner in such a collaborative and engaging setting sets the tone for the entire project,” said Ulf Jakob, project coordinator from NORCE. “By combining technical discussions with interactive formats, we are building not just a project, but a strong partnership capable of delivering impactful innovation.”

Bergen, a historic maritime hub, provided a fitting backdrop for discussions on the future of sustainable shipping.

The first day concluded with a visit to Bryggen, the city's iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site. The old wharf stands as a testament to Bergen's central role in the Hanseatic League's trading network from the 14th to the mid-16th century. This cultural experience

reinforced the project's connection between maritime heritage and future innovation, linking centuries of seafaring tradition with the transition toward clean energy technologies.

Over the coming months, Mariner partners will focus on advancing system design, integration and validation activities, including the development of a modular fuel cell architecture, testing under different maritime operating conditions.

### About Mariner

Mariner is a Horizon Europe project dedicated to enabling the next generation of zero-emission maritime power systems. By developing scalable PEM fuel cell solutions and facilitating their industrialisation, Mariner aims to unlock multi-megawatt applications for a wide range of vessels. The project contributes to the European Green Deal and the EU's Fit for 55 objectives, strengthening Europe's industrial leadership in clean maritime technologies and supports the transition toward climate-neutral shipping.

- FULL NAME: MARINER Partnership – Validation and Demonstration of a Reliable, Efficient, Scalable, and Low-Cost PEM Fuel Cell System
- CALL TOPIC: HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2025-03-03 Reliable, efficient, scalable and lower cost 1 MW-scale PEMFC system for maritime applications
- BUDGET: €6 999 954,84
- Co-funded by Monaco Government
- DURATION: 48 months

### The partners



### For more information

- Clean Hydrogen Partnership: [https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/index_en)
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