

PRESS RELEASE

## **N/R Laura Bassi in Trieste for extraordinary refitting**

The only Italian oceanographic research icebreaker will receive new equipment for the coming Arctic campaign

TRIESTE, MARCH 31, 2021 – The icebreaker N/R Laura Bassi, the only Italian oceanographic research vessel, owned by the National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS arrived today at the Fincantieri shipyard Arsenale Triestino San Marco (ATSM) in Trieste, back from its mission in Antarctica. Here, the unit will undergo **an important and delicate work completing its scientific equipment** for the study and exploration of the entire marine ecosystem. At the end of these operations, which will last about 2 months, N/R Laura Bassi will be engaged in her first scientific campaign in the Arctic.

Works on the most important vessel of the National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS will be carried out by Fincantieri, together with a group of local companies.

The N/R Laura Bassi will be equipped with **a set of new instrumentations**, which will make the vessel even more efficient during her scientific campaigns and as a result more attractive for the national and international research system. In detail, two new three-dimensional mapping seabed systems will be installed, as well as scientific sonars able to map shoals of fish deep under the sea, and innovative systems allowing to "see" inside the earth for over 3,000 meters. Seafloor sampling and coring systems will also be installed, as well as equipment measuring tides at depth while the ship is cruising.

The operation is made possible thanks to the contributions from the National Research Program in Antarctica (**Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide**, PNRA) and from the National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS, which has received specific funding from the Ministry for this project.

The icebreaker N/R Laura Bassi arrived in Trieste, following her second expedition to the South Pole within 12 months, the 36th expedition of the National Research Program in Antarctica (PNRA), funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, managed by the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) concerning the planning and logistical organization, and by the National Research Council (CNR) with regards to scientific planning and coordination. Once works will be completed, the ship will head north for its **first scientific campaign in the Arctic** expected to last two months.

*"We are particularly proud to be able to equip the N/R Laura Bassi with new instrumentations", stated **Nicola Casagli, President of OGS**. "The ship we purchased just over a year ago has already confirmed itself as an extremely valuable infrastructure for the whole Italian research system. The cooperation with Fincantieri, which with OGS does not only share the birthplace of Trieste but also striving for excellence, will allow us to further expand the vessel's scientific capacity".*

*"With Fincantieri we have found a partner with a solid experience, able to understand our technical needs, as well as our urgent demands which require to have the equipment activity carried out quickly and between one scientific campaign and the other", continued **Franco Coren, Director of the OGS Naval Infrastructure Management Center**.*

*"This operation represents a strong acknowledgment of Fincantieri's skills", said **Giuseppe Bono, CEO of Fincantieri**. "Every project involving vessels intended to operate specifically at the poles, in the most extreme marine environments on the planet, requires the highest technological standards that the industry can express, especially for a state-of-the-art ship such as the research Laura Bassi. We are aware that the cooperation with a partner of international prestige such as OGS consolidates our references also in the scientific field".*

**Agostino Vidulli, Director of Fincantieri ATSM shipyard,** commented: *“The refitting activity raises real engineering challenges. The removal of an approximately 40 square meters portion of the bottom of the hull will be the focus of the project, as well as its reconstruction by joining an underground structure for the housing of research equipment. This step must be carried out with the utmost precision, as it will determine the thoroughness of future measurements. We have no doubt that our shipyard will be able to rise up to such an ambitious task”.*

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**The National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS** is an internationally oriented public research institution. This institution operates and develops its own mission in the European Research Area (ERA) and internationally, prioritizing the basic and applied research fields of: Oceanography (physics, chemistry, biology and geology); experimental and explorative Geophysics; Seismology and seismology applied to engineering. OGS applies its own expertise in Earth Sciences, and in Marine and Polar regions to contribute not only to the spreading and widening of the knowledge, but also to the practical solution of environmental, economical and social issues, in accordance addresses of the National Research Program and the strategic objectives set by the European Union. The main activities carried out are represented by research, development and technology transfer projects for the benefit of the territory, with particular interest in issues related to major global challenges. The strategy pursued by the institution aims at a strong integration between research activities, innovation / technology transfer and training / dissemination, as well as a synergy between the various research funding instruments. In particular, using its own research vessel, the *Laura Bassi* icebreaker, and other strategic and excellent infrastructures, OGS intervenes to safeguard and enhance natural and environmental resources, to assess and prevent geological, environmental and climatic risks, and to disseminate scientific knowledge and culture. In this perspective, the Institute plays an important and leading role in the Italian and international research system, to contribute to the technological and socio-economic development of the country and to ensure the acquisition and exchange at a global level of the most advanced knowledge and technologies, allowing at the same time their positive impact on local territories (“glocal” approach).

## Media Relations

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**Fincantieri** is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups, global Italian leader in cruise ship design, reference player in all high-tech shipbuilding industry sectors, from naval to offshore vessels, from high-complexity ferries to mega yachts, as well as production of systems and component equipment for mechanical and electrical segments, from cruise ship interiors solutions, electronic and software systems, to infrastructures and maritime constructions, as well as after-sales services.

With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri maintains its know-how, expertise and management centres in Italy, here employing 10,000 workers and creating around 90,000 jobs, which double worldwide thanks to a production network of 18 shipyards operating in four continents and with over 20,000 employees.

The Group's clients include the biggest cruise operators, being exclusive supplier for the Italian Navy and reference partner for the US Navy, as well as numerous foreign navies. Fincantieri also plays a key role in some of the main European defence companies within supranational programs.

Fincantieri's main strategic leverage is expanding its competences and skills. This key element allows the company to successfully operate in its core business, as well as in different high value-added sectors and markets in terms of organizational structure, management of complexity, innovation, and sustainability.

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