



Cristina Aleixendri Muñoz

COO & Co-founder of Bound4Blue

Reducing shipping emissions through wind-assisted propulsion solutions

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Main product:

Wingsails

Aim:

To reduce CO2 emissions in the maritime transport industry by using wind to boost vessels' engines

- Start year:** 2018
- Generated funding:** EUR 5 800 000
- Challenge:** Climate-friendly, healthy shipping
- Prizes:** Top 50 Entrepreneurs, 2019 Forbes 30 under 30 Europe – Manufacturing and Industry



Powered by:



THE PROJECT

The idea

We developed two innovative wingsail systems that generate effective thrust from wind power, thereby reducing the engine power required by vessels as well as shipping costs. Moreover, this solution can reduce the number of asthma cases among children living in coastal areas and lower the number of deaths caused by cancer.

Inspiration

The environmental and health damage posed by the maritime industry encouraged us to bring a solution to major challenges faced by commercial shipping: high fuel operating expenses and emissions reduction pressure from international entities.

Unique selling points

Our product allows for major fuel savings and emissions reduction with a payback below five years. It is also relevant to fleets with air draft or operation limitations. Our system has extended operability thanks to the rotation capability and the operation of our system is simple and fully autonomous.

Societal impact

Our technology reduces shipping-related emissions which cause childhood asthma and cardiopulmonary and lung cancer deaths each year. It provides huge opportunities to modernise the infrastructure, creating new jobs in the process.

EIT Community support

EIT Climate-KIC supported us with financing, mentoring, training and access to a global network of investors. It also helped us increase our media exposure.

Overcoming adversity

There is a psychological barrier in offering innovative technology to a traditional industry. Inspiring respect is also challenging in a male-dominated industry. To overcome this, I relied on other female entrepreneurs and friends.

THE NOMINEE

The beginning

I realised that while many of the commodities around us are shipped on board a vessel, we need healthy oceans. It later became clear to me that engineering offers infinite ways to solve the world's most pressing challenges.

Rewarding moments

There are a lot of exciting moments that I would highlight, such as the first time investors believed in us, the first prototypes we built and that actually worked, when we signed a contract for our first installation, the acknowledgement by Forbes as one of the 30 brightest manufacturing and industry entrepreneurs under 30 in Europe...

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