

ConRo launch ushers in new era in box shipping

Türkiye's Tuzla shipyard launched the largest freight vessel to be primarily operated by sail power in the modern era.

[Nick Savvides](#), Europe correspondent

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Image: Neoline

The 136m *Neoliner Origin* has a capacity of 5,300 tonnes of cargo and a further 265 containers, including capacity for some reefer cargo, and is due to make its maiden voyage this summer, according to owner and operator Neoline.

The vessel left the yard on the 30 January to begin its sea trials, ahead of its first voyage in the summer.

President at Neoline Development Jean Zanuttini, who established Neoline in 2015 with nine cofounders including fellow seafarer Michel Pery, President of Neoline & Associates, said the company is determined to demonstrate that a new type of shipping is possible.

“Completing construction of our ship is just the beginning, as we will soon begin operations. Neoline was created out of a desire to prove that we can create a different kind of shipping company; one that dramatically reduces emissions as well as delivering cargo reliably, on schedule, and handling a wide range of logistics challenges. That work starts now, with our upcoming sea trials,” said Zanuttini.

Neoliner Origin is fitted with two solid main sails of 1,050m² manufactured by Chantiers de l’Atlantique, they are described as semi-rigid panels of fiberglass within a carbon frame, mounted on two 90 m tiltable carbon masts with two 450m² soft jibs. In addition, *Neoliner Origin* will be fitted with a 3,300 kW diesel engine and a 900 kW electric booster, as auxiliary power.

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Sailing at 11 knots and using wind energy for up to 70% of its propulsive power, *Neoliner Origin* will operate on the Atlantic making 12 round trips per year from France to the US and Canada. The shipping company has already developed interested companies that want to transport their freight on a vessel that will, it is claimed, reduce carbon emissions by 80%.

Customers of Neoline include major shippers such as Renault, yacht maker Beneteau, forklift truck manufacturer Manitou, Hennessy, Cointreau and Clarins.

Yann Le Gouic, international transport and logistics manager at Clarins said: “The Group’s commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by 30% by 2025 involves sustainable procurement, particularly in terms of transport... This is the beginning of a new era for more environmentally friendly sea freight.”

Meanwhile, Neoline co-founder and president Michel Pery, said *Neoliner Origin* will show that it is possible to transport heavy loads across oceans while “staying within planetary limits.”

He added: “Jean and I first started the design for this ship in 2011; now, seeing *Neoliner Origin* hit the water and approaching completion, it’s testament to 14 years of hard work and dedication.”