



# ACTIVITY REPORT 2022





MEMORIA ANUAL DE ACTIVIDADES  
CLÚSTER MARÍTIMO DE CANTABRIA 2022

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# A WORD FROM<sup>1</sup> THE PRESIDENT

## INTRODUCTION

In 2022, we thankfully left the word “recovery” behind, making way for the increasingly important concept of “transformation”. It was a year in which the fundamental pillars for the growth of the maritime sector (innovation, sustainability and talent) were firmly harnessed. The entire blue sector of the community invested valuable efforts, reflected through constant and sustainable growth, proposing alternatives to the current economic model to safeguard guaranteed economic productivity.

We are an innovative sector. The maritime industry accounts for over 20% of the total R&D+I expenditure in the region. We have powerful transformational projects such as Green Hydrogen Cantabria, which has submitted several initiatives to the PERTE for Renewable Energies, Renewable Hydrogen and Storage, and which will start to become a reality in 2023.





**JUAN LUIS SÁNCHEZ**

President of the Maritime  
Cluster of Cantabria



The essential role of clusters in fostering regional resilience has been ever the more evident in recent years. We have acted as a bridge between business and government to address the needs of industry and have contributed to developing the capacities of the productive sectors.

The MarCA Cluster made a special effort to promote the participation of Cantabrian companies in the Strategic Projects for Economic Recovery and Transformation [*Proyectos Estratégicos para la Recuperación y Transformación Económica (PERTE)*], specifically in the Naval PERTE and the PERTE for Renewable Energies, Renewable Hydrogen and Storage. Cantabria has historically played a key role in developing the national maritime sector. So much so that the participation of our industry in national growth is essential to achieve an effective transformation with the potential to compete in the international market.

The maritime sector has also demonstrated the importance of all the agents linked to the sea collaborating and cooperating to develop initiatives that position our companies at the forefront of the national and European markets.

The creation of the Blue Economy Platform of Cantabria is a clear example of this commitment to join forces. It is a public-private cooperation forum set up by the MarCA Cluster and the Sea of Innovation Cantabria (SICC) that fosters the exchange of knowledge and the development of high-value initiatives and projects. This Platform will drive strategic actions and plans to boost the growth of the Blue Economy based on sustainability and innovation.

Our seas and oceans are an inexhaustible source of wealth we cannot afford to waste, and companies in the maritime sector have the greatest interest in preserving and caring for them.

Now more than ever, the industry's focus on sustainability, new fuels and emission reductions is more than ever on areas directly related to the care of the marine environment and environmental sustainability; emerging sectors considered strategic for progressing towards climate neutrality and offer endless options for the productive fabric of the blue sector.

Our mission is to continue on this path of growth and transformation. We have the challenge of strengthening the capacities of the region's business agents, fostering collaboration between the main actors in the sector and continuing to promote the Blue Economy in its broadest aspects.

Among our medium-term objectives, our efforts must focus on training and generational renewal. The maritime sector requires now more than ever qualified technical professionals. The current demand exceeds the number of profiles on the market with technical skills specific to machining, carpentry or electronics. It is, therefore, essential to bring students, the new generations, closer to the possibilities offered by the maritime industry and to promote specialised education that meets the needs and demands of the sector.

Creating a working group on nautical tourism is also in the planning for these months to promote development in the community and publicise the wide range of business opportunities. A key industry in Cantabria both economically, historically and socially.

We end the year with enthusiasm and will continue to work under our mantra of growth, collaboration and transformation with high expectations for all the opportunities that 2023 has in store for our sector.







# EXECUTIVE 2 SUMMARY

## THE MarCA CLUSTER

The Maritime Cluster of Cantabria (MarCA) was created in 2017 to promote cooperation and the commercial and technological development of maritime industries and activities in Cantabria by creating opportunities and synergies that boost their competitiveness in national and international markets.


MarCA has maintained steady growth since its foundation to consolidate its position as one of the main driving forces in the maritime sector in the region; a position it has achieved in only five years thanks to strong growth in the number of members, joint economic data and the competitiveness of the companies.

The balance of the first five years of activity of the Cluster has amply demonstrated this with some very remarkable figures on the representativeness of the grouping in the economy of the region:

677 million  
euros of combined turnover  
of the members

4,45% of Cantabria's *GDP*

2,57%  
of total  
*employment*  
in  
Cantabria



This growth has also stemmed from the momentum of the community's maritime sector. The Cantabrian industry has taken advantage of the great opportunities offered by the Blue Economy by choosing the path of innovation and R&D to position itself as one of the main economic sectors in the region.

Industry linked to the sea has a total impact of 9% of Cantabria's GDP, accounting for 10% of regional employment. The Cantabria maritime sector continues to promote and grow in R&D+I, digitalisation and new technologies, which are essential for companies to develop and progress. This represents 20% of R&D&I expenditure in the region.

Overall, the blue sector has been one of the most successful in cushioning the impact of the crisis. The industry already started 2020 in an advantageous position which, combined with the efforts of companies and organisations to adapt to the new context and transform challenges into opportunities, has allowed the sector to overcome obstacles and exponentially increase its capabilities in recent years.



# GO 2 THE MarCA CLUSTER ALS

The main objective of the Maritime Cluster of Cantabria - MarCA is to promote and stimulate cooperation between economic activities in the marine environment or use its resources in their processes to obtain a higher level of competitiveness of the entire maritime sector in Cantabria.

This purpose includes all the entities that form the value chain of the blue sector: product, equipment and components manufacturers and importers, and service providers, the shipping industry and the industry in general, which requires maritime services. It, therefore, lays the foundations to ensure a transversal adaptation to technological changes and market challenges.

In short, the Maritime Cluster aims to become a common element that facilitates the general defence of the interests of the maritime industries in Cantabria.

This general goal is complemented by several more specific objectives, as set out below:

**CONSOLIDATE** the naval maritime sector in Cantabria and act as a benchmark for other players of the sector and represent both the interests of the sector and the associates of the naval industry before the public administrations and any other decision-making bodies.

**INCREASE** the competitiveness and the business opportunities of the companies or entities in the naval maritime market, combining synergies that facilitate access to the most important projects in Spain and abroad.

**POSITION** the maritime industry of Cantabria in its maximum exponent of development to lead areas of specialisation in strategic international markets.

**PROMOTE** the presence and international recognition of the Cantabria maritime sector.

**INVOLVE** the companies, associated entities, bodies, universities, technological, research and training centres, both public and private, in research and knowledge transfer processes to obtain advantages and benefits derived from the execution of innovative projects in the naval maritime sector.

**COMMUNICATE AND DISSEMINATE** the importance of the sector to our society and economy.

**PROMOTE** and facilitate the training of professionals in the naval maritime sector with a state-of-the-art technical qualification also valid for other sectors and markets.

**CREATE** qualified employment from vocational training to engineering.

**PROMOTE** the implementation of the key technologies of the future in manufacturing and services according to the digital model.

**MONITOR** the national and international maritime and naval market to identify the challenges, trends and perspectives of the sector and raise awareness of the short and medium-term movements among the Cluster participants to define the joint strategy of action.

**ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER** communication and knowledge exchange between partners and different sectors and activities of the Cluster to promote and encourage debate, cooperation and collaboration on projects and the generation of synergies.

**IDENTIFY** the general and cross-sectional interests of the maritime sectors and cluster members and the value creation levers and actions to respond to the challenges of the sector, promoting and defending these interests in the different regional, national and international forums, both public and private, without detriment to the particular interests of the different members.

# STRATEGIC 2 THE MarCA CLUSTER AXES

The strategic axes form the backbone of the Cantabria Maritime Cluster and represent the main lines of action to fulfil its objectives. The priority axes of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan are:

**1** **AXE**  
Competitiveness,  
Resilience and  
Growth

**2** **AXE**  
Public-Private  
Partnership and  
Strategic Sectors

**3** **AXE**  
New Models  
and Customer  
Experience

**4** **AXE**  
Global Markets  
and Alliances



**5** **AXE**  
Funding and  
Sustainability

**6** **AXE**  
Digitalisation

**7** **AXE**  
Talent

**8** **AXE**  
Innovation and  
Technology

**9** **AXE**  
Communication,  
Culture and Social  
Responsibility

**10** **AXE**  
Ecological Transition  
and Protection of the  
Marine Environment

Thanks to the close cooperation of the cluster members and the promotion of the identified strategic axes, the members are expected to contribute and receive different value proposals based on each member's capabilities and specific knowledge.

The desired benefits are technological development and innovation, the achievement of new market products of interest to the naval sector, increase of the market share, access to new commercial activities both national and international, the execution of R&D+i projects related to naval transformations and other benefits related to internationalisation, the competitiveness of the sector, social relevance or environmental sustainability.

## 2

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### THE MarCA CLUSTER

# MEMBERS

The effects of the pandemic continued to linger throughout 2022. The maritime industry made a major effort over the past year to return to normality and overcome global market challenges.

The challenges of the maritime sector in the region directly affected the growth of the Maritime Cluster of Cantabria in the last year, despite welcoming a new member. With the accession of the European University of the Atlantic (UNEATLANTICO), the grouping reached 46 members.

However, UNEATLANTICO's entrance to the Cluster represents an important reinforcement of the line of training, research and technological development pursued by MarCA. An essential point to boost the growth of the community's maritime sector, foster young talent and focus education on the needs of the industry.

This constant increase of critical mass related to the blue economy identifies MarCA as the primary spokesperson pursuing the sector's interests. With the new members, the Cantabrian Cluster can advance in novel business opportunities and represent, with increasing loyalty, the maritime sector's activities in Cantabria.



## Shipbuilding

**ASTANDER**

ASTANDER

## Technical offices, inspection and certification

**EUROCONTROL**

EUROCONTROL

**AENOR**

AENOR



BUREAU VERITAS



DNV GL

## Transport

**ALFINTER**  
FORWARDING

ALFINTER  
FORDWARDING

**Brittany Ferries**

BRITTANY  
FERRIES

**BERGÉ**  
Moved by Logistics

BERGÉ  
MARÍTIMA

**ERHARDT**

ERHARDT

## Training and R&D



CTC



FUNDACIÓN IH



UNIVERSIDAD DE  
CANTABRIA



UNIVERSIDAD  
EUROPEA DEL  
ATLÁNTICO

## Institutions



SODERCAN



AUTORIDAD  
PORTUARIA



CICCP



COIN

## Consulting and legal advice



VELASCO & CO  
ABOGADOS



INGECONSUL



ECOS, ESTUDIOS  
AMBIENTALES Y  
OCEANOGRAFÍA



WSP SPAIN

## Recreational boating



CLUB NÁUTICO DE  
SANTANDER

## Ancillary Industry



GRUPO  
FERNÁNDEZ JOVÉ



FAED



SETELSA



GRUPO GOMUR



ENWESA



CASUSO  
PROPELLERS



MINDASA



DEGIMA



ECOL



SAJA INDYNA



SILECMAR



GAMESA ELECTRIC



ERZIA



REINOSA FORGING  
CASTING



ESTUDIO DE  
FLUIDOS



DEMOLICIONES  
SUBMARINAS



MADEMAN



FCT



CAYMO



GOODWINDS



VILA  
ELECTROQUÍMICA



ATECSOL



TECAN



HISPANAMER

# INTERNAL

# ACTI<sub>2</sub>

## THE MarCA CLUSTER

# VITY



*MarCA visit to the Juan Sebastián Elcano Training Ship  
June 2022*

# 2022

<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MarCA's Extraordinary Meeting</li></ul>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting with the Regional Ministry of Innovation, Industry, Transport and Trade of the Government of Cantabria</li><li>• Appointment of Mr Javier López Marcano as president of the Blue Economy Cantabria Platform</li><li>• Meeting with the Professional Association of Industrial Engineers of Cantabria</li><li>• MarCA's Executive Committee</li><li>• Meeting with the Regional Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Tourism of the Government of Cantabria for the 'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050' competition</li></ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch of the competition 'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050'</li><li>• MarCA's Executive Committee</li></ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MarCA's Annual General Meeting</li><li>• Jury meeting of the 'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050' competition</li><li>• Meeting with the Cluster of the Balearic Islands for the ROE (Renewable Ocean Energy) project</li><li>• Spanish Maritime Cluster Meeting with regional maritime clusters</li><li>• MarCA visit to the Juan Sebastián Elcano Training Ship</li></ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MarCA's Executive Committee</li></ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MarCA's Executive Committee</li></ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting with Teirlog Engineering</li><li>• A collaboration agreement between MarCA and Unión Profesional de Cantabria was signed</li><li>• Meeting of the Blue Economy Platform of Cantabria</li><li>• Meeting of the Jury of the 4th Blue Industry Award</li></ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cantabria Intercluster Meeting with SODERCAN and the Government of Cantabria</li><li>• MarCA's Executive Committee</li><li>• Spanish Maritime Cluster Meeting with regional maritime clusters</li></ul>



# INTRO DUC TION

## 3 ACTIVITIES

The MarCA Cluster has celebrated a year full of remarkably valuable activities, events and actions for the region's maritime industry. During the year, attendance at all events was gradually restored under health restrictions. This recovery encouraged numerous meetings between the community's social and economic agents.

One of the main actions was the official constitution of the Blue Economy Platform of Cantabria, with the adhesion of 21 regional companies and institutions. It is an initiative created in collaboration with the Sea of Innovation Cantabria Cluster (SICC), which aims to become a forum of cooperation, reflection and debate to strengthen public-private communication and collaboration in the community's maritime sector.

MarCA has also continued working on its most ambitious project to date, 'Green Hydrogen Cantabria', which aims to promote green hydrogen in the industrial fabric as an alternative to fossil fuels. The project presented the AMONH2 initiative to the PERTE for Renewable Energies, Renewable Hydrogen and Storage, which plans to demonstrate the prototypes achieved in real industrial environments.



One of the Cluster's priority objectives is to raise social awareness of the importance of caring for the marine environment. In this line of action, MarCA held the first edition of the school competition 'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050' after identifying the need to approach young people in the region and see how they see maritime sustainability and the future of our oceans. Over 300 students from all over Cantabria participated in the competition.

In addition, MarCA awarded the Blue Industry Award Cantabria for the fourth year in a row. This seal of identity of the organisation was born in 2019 as an instrument to promote the region's maritime sector nationwide. Vicente Boluda Fos, president of Boluda Corporación Marítima, was awarded for his firm commitment to Cantabria as an important enclave in the national maritime sector and his company's involvement in promoting the growth of the region's industry.

The Cluster continued to work hard to make the capabilities of the Cantabrian maritime sector known to the main national and international players and promote its growth in the market. The group attended two of the main trade fairs in the sector with its own stand: Navalía and SMM Hamburg.

The MarCA also continued the path of the specialised conferences that had been so successful in recent years, adapting their format to online or face-to-face based on health measures. All this is to continue offering knowledge to the region's business agents. The board of directors designed events on strategic issues for the sector, which are beneficial to boost the competitiveness, innovation and development of the industries that make up the sector.

# TECHNICAL

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ACTIVITIES

# CONFERENCES



*Clúster MarCA youtube channel*



Seminar

## **'Energy Market in 2022: facing the perfect storm'**

*(31 March)*

Spanish companies are primarily concerned about the energy market. The escalation of prices in recent years has been exacerbated at national and international levels and is having a major impact on the business sector today, creating concerns about the future of energy.

In this context, the Maritime Cluster of Cantabria - MarCA organised the 'Energy market in 2022: facing the perfect storm' virtual conference to analyse the keys to meeting the challenges posed by the current energy market and in the short-medium term future.

The seminar was given by Javier Cavada, President and CEO of Mitsubishi Power for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and advisor to key companies in the energy market such as GALP, Highview Power and Gazelle.



Conference

## **Climate Emergency**

*(28 June)*

The MarCA Cluster, the European University of the Atlantic and the Business and Climate Foundation organised a conference on the global climate emergency and how reducing emissions can be a business opportunity for all companies of any sector and size.

Reducing emissions is not only an environmental and social issue. It is also an excellent opportunity to explore new avenues of growth related to the development of renewable energies. Offshore wind energy and green hydrogen, emerging sectors considered strategic for progress towards climate neutrality, offer endless options for the productive fabric.

This was explained by Elvira Carles, director of the Fundación Empresa y Clima, expert speaker at the conference.

# ATTEN DANCE 3 AT TRADE FAIRS ACTIVITIES





**Fair**  
**Navalia**  
(24 – 26 May)

The MarCA Cluster had its own stand at the international exhibition Navalia, which reopened its doors in 2022 after four years of absence. Over 400 exhibitors worldwide and over 20,000 visitors attended the event, considered the third most important in Europe for the naval sector and the first at a national level.

The Maritime Cluster of Cantabria took advantage of its presence at the Navalia fair to showcase the main capabilities and projects of the region's maritime industries. MarCA's firm commitment to innovation and sustainability and its capacity as a driving force in benchmark initiatives such as Green Hydrogen Cantabria or the Blue Economy Platform helped MarCA stand out at the event.

Not surprisingly, many national and international organisations representatives came to the MarCA stand to discover the work and actions carried out by their partners. This space also facilitated networking and bilateral meetings between entities.



**Fair**  
**SMM Hamburgo**  
(6 – 9 September)

For the first time since its establishment, the MarCA Cluster attended the SMM Hamburg fair with its own stand. The world's leading event for the maritime sector celebrated its 30th edition with the participation of over 2,000 exhibitors from 67 countries.

Entities from countries as varied as Canada, Italy, Norway, France and Portugal, and numerous Spanish companies, visited the Cluster's stand, most of them attracted especially by the Cluster's firm commitment to sustainability and the promotion of the Blue Economy concept.

MarCA also took advantage of its presence to showcase Cantabria's maritime industries' main capacities and projects and promote the internationalisation of Cantabrian companies.

*‘HOW DO YOU  
IMAGINE THE  
OCEAN IN 2050’*

SCHOOL  
3  
ACTIVITIES

COM

PETITION

### **The competition**

The Cluster's main objective is to raise social and business awareness of the importance of caring for the marine environment and how we can all act to achieve a sustainable future. In this line of action, MarCA identified the need to approach young people in the region and see how they see maritime sustainability and the future of our oceans.

'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050' is conceived as a school competition for Cantabrian pupils in the last cycle of primary school and all years of secondary school. The competition aimed to bring young people closer to the maritime environment and spark their interest in and awareness of environmental sustainability in the seas and oceans.

Students in groups were asked to create an art project that reflects their perspective of what the ocean will look like in 2050. A reflection that will also serve as an added input for today's adult generation, with the capacity to propose strategies to improve this future that young people will enjoy.

## 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the competition

The Maritime Cluster of Cantabria and the Regional Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, in collaboration with the Regional Ministry of Rural Development, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and Environment and MARE, held the first edition of the school competition. More than 300 pupils aged between 10 and 18 from thirteen schools in Cantabria participated in the competition.

"Adults can learn a lot from young people and reflect on the future we are leaving them, reflected in the projects created in this competition. As stated by Juan Luis Sánchez, president of the MarCA Cluster, during the awards ceremony. A celebration that took place in June at the Estación Marítima de Santander.



The students from the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Baccalaureate at IES Bernardino Escalante in Laredo were the winners of the senior group, a category for students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of ESO and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of Baccalaureate. They were closely followed by the schools Sagrado Corazón de Jesús de Santoña and Calasanz Santander, which won the runners-up prizes in the group. Marina Lombó, Regional Minister for Education and Vocational Training, presented the award in this category.

In the junior group, a category aimed at students in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years of Primary Education and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of Compulsory Secondary Education, the 5th-year primary school students from CEIP Los Puentes de Colindres won the prize. Primary School Manuel Llano from Santander and Parayas Special Education Centre students came close to the podium with two runners-up prizes. Guillermo Blanco, Regional Minister for Rural Development, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Environment, presented the award in this category.

## Exhibition of the projects

The first edition of the 'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050' competition received over twenty projects. These well-crafted and deeply reflective proposals were exhibited at the Centro de Arte Faro Cabo Mayor throughout June.

The exhibition of the projects presented was developed to continue raising awareness of maritime sustainability and showcase the great work carried out by the more than 300 students who participated in the competition.



*Exhibition projects*





*Junior group winners*



*Senior group winners*

# 'BLUE ECONOMY' *PLATAFORMA*<sup>3</sup> ACTIVITIES CANTABRIA

## The Platform's mission

The Blue Economy Platform of Cantabria has been created in collaboration with the Maritime Cluster of Cantabria (MarCA) and the Sea of Innovation Cantabria Cluster (SICC). It is a forum for cooperation, reflection and debate to strengthen communication and public-private collaboration in the maritime sector of the community. It constitutes a bridge that facilitates the exchange of visions and strategies in the maritime field to promote the development and competitiveness of the sector in Cantabria.

The Platform seeks to coordinate all sectors in the region that influence the concepts of the Blue Economy, which recognises the importance of the oceans and seas as drivers of the global economy. It also proposes alternatives to the current economic model, seeking to generate sustainable models of life and work committed to our oceans' care and sustainable exploitation.



In this sense, the Platform encompasses marine resources, marine renewable energies, port activities, maritime transport, shipbuilding and ship repair, fisheries and the canning industry, business organisations, coastal tourism and technology centres and universities working towards a more sustainable and profitable maritime sector.

## Election of the president

On 23 March 2022, Javier López Marcano, Minister of Industry, Tourism, Innovation, Transport and Trade of the Government of Cantabria, was elected President of Cantabria's Blue Economy Platform. This was made official at a meeting between the minister, the director general of Industry, Daniel Alvear, the president of the Cantabria Maritime Cluster and the vice-president of the Platform, Juan Luis Sánchez.

The Regional Minister for Industry stated this initiative was “an opportunity” for the economy of Cantabria, involving various sectors involved: coastal tourism, maritime transport, fishing, logistics, port activity, the naval sector and the many supply industries, and research centres and universities “where major innovative projects are designed”.

## Constitución de la Plataforma

The Cantabria Maritime Cluster and the Sea of Innovation Cantabria Cluster officially created the Cantabria Blue Economy Platform on 17 May. The Cluster also announced that 21 regional companies and institutions had joined the initiative.

The Platform was consolidated in an event held in the Auditorium of the IHCantabria, which brought together all the Cantabrian agents involved in the Blue Economy in the region. Javier López Marcano, Minister of Industry, Tourism, Innovation, Transport and Trade of the Government of Cantabria and President of the Platform, made its constitution official.

The event also featured speeches by Jorge Muyo, General Director of Innovation; Juan Luis Sánchez, President of the Marca Cluster and Vice-President of the Platform; Luis San Segundo, President of the Sea of Innovation Cantabria Cluster and General Secretary of the Platform; and Pablo Peiró, Honorary Member of the Spanish Maritime Cluster.





# *GREEN* HYDROGEN 3 ACTIVITIES CANTABRIA



**green**  
**hidrógeno**  
CANTABRIA

## **Pilot project**

“Green Hydrogen Cantabria” is a project that aims to promote the use of green hydrogen in the industrial fabric of Cantabria as an alternative to fossil fuels. This is the most ambitious project carried out by the Maritime Cluster of Cantabria (MarCA) with the collaboration of the SOERMAR Foundation and Technology Centre.

The main purpose of the initiative is to build a hydrogen generation plant, which, in turn, will have a storage-distribution-application chain for this energy source in the industrial areas of the community. The consortium that will carry out this project comprises 26 companies and organisations that stand out for their innovative and technological capacity and commitment to sustainability.

“Green Hydrogen Cantabria” is framed within the strategic axes of Ecological Transition and protection of the marine environment, and Innovation and Technology. A project that seeks to place Cantabria and its industry in a position of technological leadership in the production and export of hydrogen in a profitable way and turn the community into a benchmark region in renewable energies and decarbonisation.

## **Presentation of AMONH2 to the Hydrogen PERTE**

The Green Hydrogen Cantabria project presented the AMONH2 initiative, an acronym for ‘Efficient Innovative Solutions for the Storage and Generation of Hydrogen and Green Ammonia’, to the Strategic Project for the Recovery and Economic Transformation (PERTE) for Renewable Energies, Renewable Hydrogen and Storage.

This proposal involved five companies and two technology centres and brought a solution to the problems of storing and transporting hydrogen and green ammonia. The consortium plans to demonstrate the prototypes achieved in real industrial environments. In particular at the ASTANDER shipyard.

The SOERMAR Technology Centre is the initiative’s coordinator, along with ASTANDER, the CTC Technology Centre, Jalvasub Engineering, Advanced Thermal Devices, CIC Consulting and Apria system as implementing partners.

# 4<sup>TH</sup> BLUE INDUSTRY 3 ACTIVITIES AWARD



## Spirit of the Prize

The Maritime Cluster of Cantabria - MarCA announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Cantabria Blue Industry Award as an instrument to promote the region's maritime sector at a national level. This annual award is part of the Cluster's Communication and Society strategy and was created in 2019 to become a benchmark within the blue sector business sphere.

The Cantabria Blue Industry Award is intended as a lever to promote future strategic alliances, which will contribute to the growth and expansion of the Cantabrian industry beyond the regional borders. Likewise, it intends to raise awareness of society of Cantabria of the relevance of the maritime industry and value it through the award winners.

Aimed at recognising an individual's contribution to developing the maritime industry in Cantabria, the award values attitudes such as determination, effort and confidence to consolidate the regional sector and boost its competitiveness, visibility and expansion. Any professional or representative of the maritime sector, without being from Cantabria, may be awarded this distinction. The cluster members themselves will submit the nominations they consider most appropriate for the award each year, and the executive committee will send the jury a maximum of five candidates from among all those proposed.

## Award ceremony

The 4<sup>th</sup> Cantabria Blue Industry Award was given to Vicente Boluda Fos, president of Boluda Corporación Marítima. With this award, the Cluster recognised his firm commitment to Cantabria as an important enclave in the national maritime field and the involvement of his company in promoting the growth of the maritime industry in the community.

The trophy was awarded on 30 November at an official ceremony held at the Maritime Station of Santander, attended by the President of Cantabria, Miguel Ángel Revilla and several representatives of institutions and companies linked to the Spanish maritime sector.

During his speech, the president of MarCA stressed that "the maritime sector has experienced valuable growth in the last two years and is now one of the fundamental pillars for economic recovery". Sánchez noted that "we are talking about sustainable

growth in which we are proposing alternatives to the current economic model”, a commitment that goes beyond recovery but seeks to “safeguard economic productivity that can be guaranteed over time”.

Miguel Ángel Revilla added to the declarations of the president of the MarCA Cluster, assuring that “there are great expectations with Cantabria and with the Port of Santander”. In this sense, the president of the Government of Cantabria expressed his satisfaction with the recognition that the region’s maritime sector gave Vicente Boluda Fos.

The winner thanked the MarCA Cluster for the recognition, an award “of great personal value” for being so closely linked to his Cantabrian roots. He also confirmed that Boluda Corporación Marítima joined the Cluster to continue joining forces with the region’s maritime industry and promote the blue sector in Cantabria.

Environmental sustainability also played a leading role in this fourth edition of the award. The MarCA Cluster recognises the importance of promoting care for the marine environment among the Cantabrian industry and society. In 2022, the Cluster focused on education, identifying the need to raise awareness among young people about the importance of environmental care to achieve a more sustainable future.

Following this line, MarCA invited the organisation Transforming Futures to present its transformative education work and, more specifically, its pilot programme, ‘Transforming Plastic Seas into Clean Seas’. An initiative in which over 600 students and 60 teachers from Cantabria participated and served to reflect on the problem of plastic pollution in the seas.





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 4 COMMUNICATION

The global evolution of the Cantabria Maritime Cluster in recent years has not been alien to the communication area. Thanks to the board's commitment to intensify communication and make the service more professional, the MarCA Cluster also gained visibility in the analogue media (press, radio and television) and digital portals. Disseminating and showcasing good practices and success stories from the maritime sector in Cantabria is one of the priority axes within the MarCA Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024.



In 2022, the MarCA Cluster continued to push the communication framework to increase visibility on the regional and national scene. The extensive activity of the Cluster and the most notable events of its members were perfectly disseminated and reflected through various media, both general and specialised, and on the Cantabrian group's platforms.

One of the most notable changes was the return of face-to-face attendance at conferences, events and meetings, as before the socio-health crisis. Since the beginning of the year, MarCA has been considering the security limitations and regulations and the sense of responsibility to adapt its activity to recover its presence in all its events.

Throughout the year, the media have received the Cluster's press releases well. The news agencies Europa Press and EFE and newspapers such as El Diario Montañés, Alerta, El Faradio, Eldiario.es, La Vanguardia, El Español, Cantabria Económica and Cantabria Negocios have reported on the Cluster's activities. Specialised maritime magazines and publications such as Rotación, Naucher, Spanish Ports, Canal Marítimo y Logístico, Ingeniería Naval and the news channel of the Spanish Maritime Cluster, among others, also followed suit.

The communication efforts have led to MarCA representatives being asked more frequently to participate in news programmes on Cadena SER, TeibaFM and Onda Cero. The latter radio station also showed a special interest in the Cluster's dedication to disseminating the hard work of the maritime sector and broadcast a special programme during the celebration of the 4th edition of the Blue Industry Award.

The Cantabria Maritime Cluster has become a fully recognised agent by its counterparts in other communities, the Spanish Maritime Cluster and the main national maritime sector dissemination entities. So much so that for the fourth year in a row, they asked the Cluster's president, Juan Luis Sánchez, to write an article for the Spanish Maritime Yearbook, a publication that brings together the strategic agents of the national Blue Economy to make an extract an overall view of the sector.

This media impact has been increasing and evolving since the creation of the Cluster five years ago and is complemented by the strong presence of MarCA on social media. The Cantabria Maritime Cluster has over 1,700 followers on LinkedIn at the end of this report, and its contents have an interaction rate of 5.8%. These two figures position the Cluster as the industrial Cluster in the community with the highest number of followers and interactions in its publications.

# LIST OF NEWS

## 4 COMMUNICATION

- 23.03** The Regional Minister of Industry, Javier López Marcano, chaired the Blue Economy Platform of Cantabria
- 30.03** The MarCA Cluster analysed the keys to facing the challenges posed by the energy market
- 31.03** “The only winning bets for a fair future are renewable energies and self-consumption”
- 11.05** The first edition of the ‘How do you imagine the ocean in 2050’ school competition kicked off

- 13.05** MarCA and SICC called on Blue Economy agents to join the Blue Economy Platform of Cantabria to boost the growth of the Cantabrian maritime sector
- 17.05** Twenty-one companies and institutions joined the Blue Economy Platform of Cantabria
- 27.05** MarCA showed the capacity of the Cantabrian maritime sector in the most international edition of Navalia
- 14.06** Green Hydrogen Cantabria presented to the Hydrogen PERTE an initiative to provide a solution for the storage of green hydrogen
- 17.06** Awards ceremony for the school competition 'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050'
- 21.06** The MarCA Cluster and the Balearic Islands Cluster planned to turn Cantabria into an experimental laboratory for generating energy from wave power
- 22.06** "The training ship Juan Sebastián Elcano is a symbol of our country's historical connection with the sea"
- 24.06** The Cabo Mayor Lighthouse Art Centre hosted the exhibition of the sculptures from the school competition 'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050'
- 28.06** "Emissions reduction can be a business opportunity for all companies in any sector"
- 13.09** The Cantabrian maritime industry's commitment to sustainability attracted attention at the international fair SMM Hamburg
- 18.10** MarCA and Unión Profesional joined forces to reinforce the promotion and training of research and technical personnel in the naval maritime sector
- 26.10** MarCA Cluster celebrated the choice of Santander as the venue for the European Maritime Day 2027
- 03.11** Vicente Boluda Fos, awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Blue Industry Award by the MarCA Cluster
- 16.11** Regional clusters presented the current needs of the industry to SODERCAN
- 30.11** "The growth experienced in the last two years consolidated the maritime sector as a fundamental pillar of the economic recovery"

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### MILESTONES FOR 2023

2023 will be a year of change for the maritime sector. This year, new regulations will come into force on the national and international scenes, mostly environmental mandates focusing on efficiency-oriented innovation and green fuels. These changes represent an unparalleled opportunity for the maritime sector to consolidate the digital, technological and sustainable transformation it has been forging over the last few years.

As evidenced throughout this report, 2022 has proved to be a year of recovery and growth for the sector. The maritime industry has seized challenges and turned them into development opportunities. However, this pace of adaptation and change must continue to be strengthened during this new financial year to achieve the medium and long-term objectives.

The maritime industry has various economic funds provided by the European Union and state and regional plans for economic recovery and transformation, aid that will offer a unique opportunity to promote new technologies, digitalisation and sustainability, the pillars for a solid future. The Naval PERTE is a clear example of this. A strategic project to promote and develop far-reaching initiatives that improve the shipbuilding sector's competitiveness and green-digital transition.

The Maritime Cluster of Cantabria not only promotes this modernisation but also encourages all the agents of the maritime sector to share experiences and knowledge and collaborate to extract a mutual benefit. In this respect, the Blue Economy Platform Cantabria will be essential to unite the people working for and with the Blue Economy to develop a profitable and sustainable activity in our seas and oceans.

All this is framed within the new 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, a clear and essential roadmap that came into force last year. We have been demanding and have set ourselves new challenges to establish the fundamental actions that will boost the growth of the Cantabrian maritime sector. We want to bring the whole industry together and create harmonised strategies. We will act in a comprehensive, cross-cutting and coherent manner through the six areas of action, five lines of work and ten strategic axes that articulate the document.

- 1** **AXE**  
Competitiveness, resilience and growth.
- 2** **AXE**  
Public-private partnerships & strategic sectors.
- 3** **AXE**  
New models and customer experience.
- 4** **AXE**  
Global markets and alliances.
- 5** **AXE**  
Funding and sustainability.
- 6** **AXE**  
Digitalisation.
- 7** **AXE**  
Talent.
- 8** **AXE**  
Innovation and technology.
- 9** **AXE**  
Communication, Culture and Social Responsibility.
- 10** **AXE**  
Ecological transition and protection of the marine environment.

The Blue Economy is more than the shipping and maritime industry. The Cluster will continue to grow by approaching sub-sectors of this large activity area to better integrate our region's economic potential.

The following is the list of actions planned for 2023.

## 1 **Green Hydrogen Cantabria**

Submission of the project to national calls for proposals.

## 2 **Blue Economy Platform of Cantabria**

Organisation of the Blue Economy Congress. Promote the exchange of knowledge between the main agents in the maritime sector and encourage initiatives aligned with the pillars of the Blue Economy.

## 5 **Intercluster and SODERCAN**

Meetings to strengthen the industry in Cantabria. Creation of working groups and MarCA leadership of the talent pool.

## 6 **Nautical tourism working group**

Strengthening the relationship with sport and recreational boating to establish a new development model for this activity.

## 9 **5<sup>th</sup> Cantabria Blue Industry Award**

## 10 **'La mujer en la mar'**

Presentation of the book by Raul Villa. Collaboration with the University of Cantabria (UC).

## 13 **Criminal liability**

Conference linked to Occupational Risk Prevention.

## 14 **decarbonisation of the maritime industry**

Conference.



**3** **ROE Project**  
Assessment of its viability in Cantabria.

**4** **'How do you imagine the ocean in 2050'**  
2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the school competition to bring the Blue Economy closer to young people and raise awareness about caring for the marine environment.

**7** **Networking day between partners of the MarCA Cluster**  
Improvement of the internal communication network.

**8** **Coordination between companies for participation in PERTES**

**11** **Visits to companies, organisations and institutions**

**12** **Training, information and awareness-raising**  
Days on the role of the maritime sector in the economic, social, cultural and historical sphere of Cantabria.

**15** **Conference**  
new renewable energies: green hydrogen, methanol, ammonia, etc.

**16** **Blue Maritime Growth**  
Attendance at trade fairs





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