



Press Release  
Las Vegas, January 5, 2023

## **Aqualines at CES in Las Vegas: the "high-speed water line" becomes a reality**



*Exhibiting at CES in Las Vegas from 5 to 8 January 2023, Aqualines is one of the show's leading innovations. The company is developing ground effect vehicles, a high-speed green marine mobility solution, aiming to make a positive impact on the transport sector worldwide, and thus expand the current offer at the crossroads of the maritime and aeronautical industries.*

### **The next generation of marine mobility: high-speed travel!**

Aqualines creates safe, sustainable and low-CO2 ultra-fast marine transportation with speeds up to 320 km/h. **Faster than a ship, cheaper than a plane and greener than both**, Aqualines is the future of the maritime transport sector!

Aqualines' vehicles **fly up to 5 meters above water surfaces** thanks to **the ground effect, an aerodynamic phenomenon** that occurs when a vehicle moves at very low altitude near a surface.

The air is compressed between the wings of the vehicle and the surface of the water, creating a high-pressure air cushion that generates lift. Some birds use it to take off and save their strength, airplane and helicopter pilots feel it when landing and taking off, Aqualines use the ground effect as its strength allowing the vehicle to go faster and use less energy.

This combination of air and sea will allow it to serve numerous destinations over short and medium distances (initially between 50 and 500 km) in record time, with capacities ranging from 2 to 300 seats. It is fit for both the public and private sectors.

The applications foreseen for Aqualines vehicles are countless: passenger transport, public service missions surveillance, intervention or interception, maritime cab service, urgent high value-added freight transport, etc.

### **A solution to future environmental and demographic challenges**

The transport sector is currently the second largest contributor of CO<sub>2</sub> worldwide. With 11 billion people expected to be living on our planet by 2050, mobility challenges are more than ever at the core of our societal and environmental concerns.

In less than 30 years, 80% of the population is expected to be living on a 75 km wide coastal strip. Aqualines is meeting the major needs of population movement and regional development. These new high-speed waterlines allow countless possibilities and completely transform coastal travel and inter-island crossings, while helping to open up isolated areas. In practical terms, under the smallest kraft, a trip from Tallinn to Helsinki will take less than 30 minutes and a trip from Toronto to Rochester will take less than 1 hour whereas today it's three hours by car. Aqualines thus offers a **faster and eco-friendly alternative**.

No specific heavy infrastructure is required for its deployment, which allows for multiple and relocatable boarding and drop-off points. The development of the coastline is cost-effective, and blends in with the environment without harming it. Aqualines vehicles are non-invasive for marine biodiversity since they do not produce any vibration in the water.

### **A major technological innovation made in France**

After 8 years of research and development to elaborate these vehicles, Aqualines has chosen the city of Bayonne (France) as the location for its worldwide R&D center. This will include 400 m<sup>2</sup> of offices and 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> of workshop space out of a total of 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

This was a strategic choice given that France is the world's second-largest aeronautical hub, and has the second-largest maritime's exclusive economic zone, covering more than 11 million km<sup>2</sup> and extending across all oceans. The company has already received more than **200 expressions of interest worldwide from transport companies, distributors and government agencies**.

For 2023, Aqualines' new R&D center plans to be operational by April 15 and **to carry out the first full-scale flights by September** at the latest, with the aim of finalizing orders by the end of the year.

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