

# BOURBON to Contribute to Autonomous Offshore Support Vessel Prototype



Marine offshore services company BOURBON has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Automated Ships Ltd to support the building of *Hrönn*, the fully-automated prototype vessel for offshore operations, in collaboration with the project's primary technology partner, KONGSBERG. BOURBON will provide detailed input to the development and design of the *Hrönn* project, ensuring flexibility, reliability and cost efficiency to operate safely and effectively in the demanding offshore environment. Based on its customer experience, BOURBON will thus help to match client demand.

In the second phase of the project, ASL and BOURBON will join forces to search the subsidies to finance the effective construction of the prototype.

## Hydrographic, Scientific and Autonomous Vehicles Support

*Hrönn* is a light-duty, offshore utility ship servicing the offshore energy, hydrographic & scientific and offshore fish-farming industries. It can also be utilised as a ROV and AUV support ship and standby vessel, able to provide firefighting support to an offshore platform working in cooperation with manned vessels. Automated Ships Ltd has progressed the original catamaran design of *Hrönn* since the project launch on 1 November 2016, opting for a monohulled vessel of steel construction, to provide more payload capacity and greater flexibility in the diverse range of operations.

## Development of Digital Solutions

BOURBON's entry to the *Hrönn* project follows the recent news that it has joined forces with KONGSBERG in a new collaboration to develop digital solutions for next generation connected and autonomous vessels. The two companies will execute joint projects to develop new ways of efficient operations in the offshore services industry, with a fast time-to market.

KONGSBERG will contribute its technology expertise and deliver all major marine equipment necessary for the design, construction and operation of *Hrönn*, including all systems for dynamic positioning and navigation, satellite and position reference, marine automation and communication. Its vessel control systems including K-Pos dynamic positioning, K-Chief automation, and K-Bridge ECDIS and Radar will be replicated at an Onshore Control Centre, allowing full remote operations of *Hrönn*.

*Hrönn*'s Sea trials will take place in Norway's officially designated automated vessel test bed in the Trondheim fjord and will be conducted under the auspices of DNV GL and the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA). The *Hrönn* will ultimately be classed and flagged, respectively.