Belgian research facilities: Research Vessel Belgica

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odnature.naturalsciences.be/belgica
New Research Vessel Belgica
Operational & management organization

- Federal Research Vessel
  - **Belgian Science Policy Office** (BELSPO) is the owner of the multidisciplinary research vessel as representative of the Belgian State.
  
  - The **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences** (RBINS) manages the RV Belgica (which includes, the planning of the scientific campaigns, the responsibility for the ship’s budget and the scientific instrumentation support).
  
  - The **private operator Genavir** is responsible for the integrated management and operation of the ship (which includes, the crewing and the operational & maintenance support).
  
  - The **Belgian Navy** provides the bridge personnel (Captain, Chief Mate, Second Officer) and the home port of Zeebrugge.
General characteristics

- **Full Ocean Research Vessel**
  - 71.4 m length, 16.8 m beam, max. 4.8 draft, 3870 ton displacement
  - 11 kn operational speed (max. 13 kn), 30-ton bollard pull
  - North Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea
  - Instrumentation adapted to water depths of 5000 m
  - Ice Class (DNV ICE-1C) for summer operations in Arctic areas
General characteristics

- **New Capabilities**
  - Dynamic Positioning Class 2 (DP-2) (2 stern & 2 bow thrusters & 2 aft propellers)
  - Roll reduction system
  - 16 crew – 24 scientists & marine technicians (14 single - 13 double cabins)
  - Diesel-Electric propulsion
  - DNV Silent-R
  - MARPOL TIER III
  - 30-day autonomy
  - 300 days/year at sea
Capabilities

Multipurpose research vessel

- Large deck space
  - > 330 m² free deck space (forward & aft deck), incl. UAV pad
  - Max. 9 20” containers
  - > 105 ton deck load
- Adapted to all EU research infrastructures e.g., AUVs, ROVs, drill rigs, seismic systems etc.
Multipurpose research vessel
• 14 scientific labs
  • > 430 m² lab space
• Cranes, Frames, winches
  • 3 cranes (8t, 4t, 1.5t / 17 m)
  • 4 frames (10t, 3t, 1t)
  • 12 winches (5000 m)
• Full acoustic suite
  • 3 multibeam
  • Subbottom profiler
  • Scientific echosounder
  • Fish sonar & ADCPs
  • USBL underwater navigation
Operational Life

**Multipurpose research vessel 2022**

- 22 campaigns performed
  - > 16 000 nm sailed
  - > 370 scientists
    - 60% BE – 40% non-BE
    - 65 % M – 35% F

**2023**

- 468 scientific sailing days requested
  - Greenland
  - Iceland
  - Shetland
  - Ireland
  - North Sea
Operational Life
A ship to work and to live on…
Thank you!

Please visit: odnature.naturalsciences.be/belgica & belspo.be/NewRV

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