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PIRIOU sets up in La Reunion island



*Vincent Faujour
and Laurent Virapoullé
when signing partnership*

As a part of its strategy “Be where our customers need us”, PIRIOU group with the partnership of Laurent VIRAPOULLE of PECHE AVENIR group sets up in La Reunion island and creates “PIRIOU REUNION”, a services company to shipowners.

PIRIOU REUNION will be located in Port Ouest, in the slipway area and operational in February 2018 to welcome all types of vessels up to 60m and 650t- whatever their activity, fishing, support, defence- for naval maintenance or repair, afloat or in dry dock. PIRIOU REUNION facilities will feature workshops designed and equipped for activities including mechanical and diesel engineering, piping, boiler making and welding.

Benefitting both from PIRIOU group logistic support and its design office, PIRIOU REUNION will mainly rely on skills of the local Reunionese companies’ network.

The PIRIOU group thus strengthens its presence in an area where it has already created strong relationships for over 20 years in the sectors of fishing, military and towing including:

- “Mafate” and “Cilaos” tugs delivered to the Abeilles company in 1998
- Seven 55 to 60m longliners built since 2001 for Cap Bourbon, Pêche Avenir, Armas Pêche, Sapmer and Comata shipowners
- Refit of “Le Malin” in 2011
- “VB Volcan” tug delivered to Boluda in April 2017
- B2M multi-mission vessel “ChAMPLAIN” delivered the French Navy and based in Port des Galets since June 2017
- Delivery and In Service Support of polar logistic ice breaker “L’Astrolabe” to the TAAF -Austral and Antarctic French territories-, IPEV -Paul-Emile Victor Institute- and the French Navy in September 2017



Vincent FAUJOUR, PIRIOU group C.E.O. declares: *“Following the creation of our shipyards in Nigeria in 2004, in Vietnam in 2006 and Algeria in 2013, we carry on with our international development. Our know-how regarding naval repair crossed with our local partnership with Laurent VIRAPOULLE- one of our most faithful customers- will enable us to offer quality and neighbourhood service to our long-time customers as well as to all shipowners that require technical support in La Reunion. We are setting up here very humbly but with strong confidence, in an area of great importance for the PIRIOU group where orders and new vessels deliveries have come one after another for 20 years”. (1)*

(1) Deliveries in 2017: Multi missions vessel “CHAMPLAIN” for the French Navy, polar patrol vessel “L’ASTROLABE” for the TAAF-Austral and Antarctic French territories- and the French Navy, and “VB VOLCAN” tug for BOLUDA.
Order in 2017: a 60m freezer longliner for COMATA shipowner.

Laurent VIRAPOULLE says: *“PÊCHE AVENIR has decided to create a partnership with PIRIOU group as we believe that La Reunion can become a naval repair hub with regional scope. Many skills are already locally located: this allowed us to carry out the complex refit and modernisation programme of “Clipperton” and “Manohal” (1). The implantation of PIRIOU RÉUNION will enable to insure the increase of this sector in partnership with the local companies while offering foreign and Reunionese shipowners a wide range of quality services. Following the investment in building the innovative longliner “Le Saint-André” (2) with CHANTIERS PIRIOU, the purchase of a fleet of 24m longliners and an investment to modernise it, PÊCHE AVENIR carries on -alongside with PIRIOU GROUP- its policy of investments in the sectors of development of the Reunionese maritime economy”.*

(1) “Clipperton” and “Manohal” were converted into deepfreezer pelagic longliners in la Reunion to develop a new sector for the Reunionese fishing industry.

(2) In 2016, “Le Saint-André” -first longliner featuring ICE CLASS hull and equipped with a diesel electric propulsion- was the first French vessel fishing toothfish in Antarctica. It was built in Concarneau-France by Chantiers Piriou in 2009.

About PIRIOU

Involved in shipbuilding, repair, naval engineering and services since 1965, PIRIOU specializes in producing vessels up to 120m with high added value through a combination of high-performance engineering and a global network of industrial sites in Europe, Africa and Asia.

With over 430 ships built and delivered worldwide, PIRIOU provides bespoke solutions as well as a complete range of standardized or customized vessels that satisfy the requirements of international shipowners, whether they be private or public, civilian or military.

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About Laurent Virapoullé and PECHE AVENIR group

Laurent Virapoullé has been managing PECHE AVENIR since it was created in 2001. PECHE AVENIR is involved in toothfish fishing and recently acquired a fleet of 24m longliners dedicated to swordfish fishing-frozen swordfish being a new activity of the Reunionese fishing industry.

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