



Bourbon Mistral. X-bow design from Ulstein Group. Photo: Lars Gregstad



Norwegian Centre of Expertise  
MARITIME

#### NCE MARITIME

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Norway, home for a tiny 0.1% of the world's population, controls over 5% of the world's merchant fleet and has the second largest offshore fleet in the world, after the US. The maritime cluster in the region of Møre on the west coast of Norway consists of 15 design companies, 18 ship-owning companies, 14 shipyards and 159 equipment suppliers. The cluster is one of the few complete maritime clusters in the world. It covers all the elements of the value chain, with several companies in each segment, which all compete with each other, making it highly competitive.

### Outstanding Performance – within a Small Area

The core of Norway's maritime strength, and roughly half of the country's maritime turnover, is concentrated in the region of Møre on the country's west coast. The region is home for an impressive constellation of over 200 leading maritime companies, and training, research and finance institutions. Together, these form the innovative and dynamic offshore maritime cluster of Møre. Due to its outstanding performance and innovation strength the cluster was awarded the prestigious status as Norwegian Centre of Expertise for the maritime sector by the Norwegian Government.

### The Perfect Case of Cluster Dynamics

The maritime cluster in Møre is complete, meaning that several companies in each segment of the value chain compete daily with their peers in the cluster, as well as internationally. This results in an unparalleled innovation potential, and secures the cluster's strong global presence leading position within the field of advanced marine

operations. Today, over 75% of the world's largest, hi-tech offshore vessels are designed in the Møre maritime cluster. Forty percent of the world's most advanced offshore fleet is controlled by the region's shipowners.

### Global Presence – Global Attraction

The cluster operates globally and its companies and products are known worldwide. While most of the Member-companies are home-bread, an increasing number of major international players, such as Rolls-Royce, STX or Bourbon, are seeking their place in the cluster. The reason – the cluster's winning mix of high pace of innovation, prototype orientation, competition, informal communication, cooperation, and unique know-how within the field of advanced marine operations for the global offshore industry.

### NCE Maritime – Ensuring Future Growth

The maritime cluster in Møre is represented by the organization NCE Maritime, which works to ensure the continuous development

of the cluster, and its member companies. The organization focuses on three main areas – research and education, reputation building, and innovation.

NCE Maritime increases the cluster's innovation rate by bringing in new knowledge, ideas and inspiration, and helping create new companies, products, and workplaces. A number of research projects have been initiated and carried out in recent years, developing and spreading new knowledge. NCE Maritime backs a new national initiative for new professorships sponsored by the industry, and has contributed to the establishment of a record four of such professorships at Ålesund University College. In addition, NCE Maritime works to strengthen the cluster's interplay by serving as a valuable information node and a dynamic meeting place, and raise awareness of the cluster's strength and attractiveness among key audiences, bringing new members into the cluster, and new talented people into its companies.