

HARBOUR PILOTS' SAILING WORLD CUP

PROJECT 2027

Marseilles, France



FOREWORD

The profession of harbour pilot is practiced by sailors deeply devoted to their craft, driven by a passion for the sea and a strong sense of solidarity unique to seafarers.

Every day, regardless of the hour or the weather conditions, they guide ships, offering captains their expertise in maneuvering.

This demanding profession forges a community of professionals united by the same challenges, facing the same dangers, climbing the same ladders in ports all around the world.

Yet, this international brotherhood has too few opportunities to come together, to exchange experiences, and to build lasting bonds.

Although the sea unites us and we naturally share a spirit of teamwork, there is, to this day, no nautical sporting event bringing together pilots from across the globe. And nothing could strengthen the ties between professionals better than a sailing competition—a collective challenge on our very “workplace,” carried by friendship and solidarity.

That is why we, the French pilots, aspire to organize in Marseilles the very first Harbour Pilots' Sailing World Cup.

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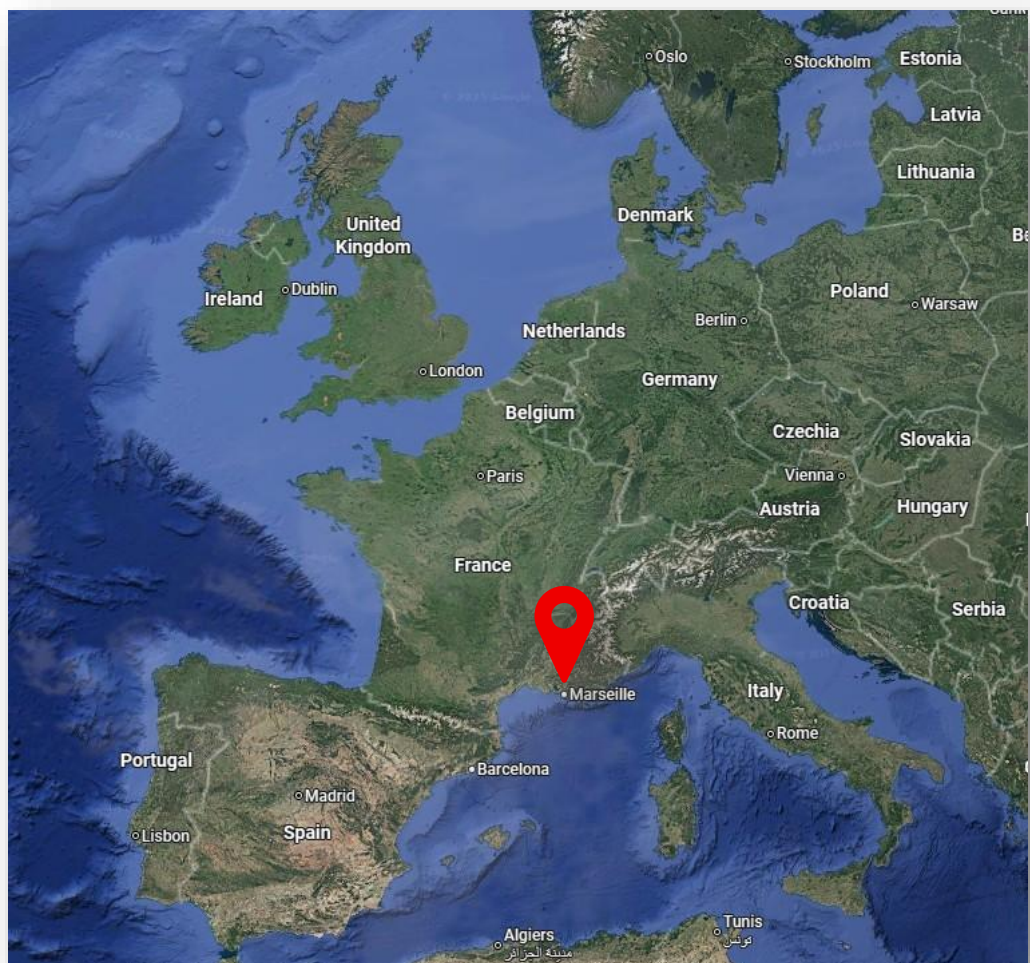


THE REGATTA

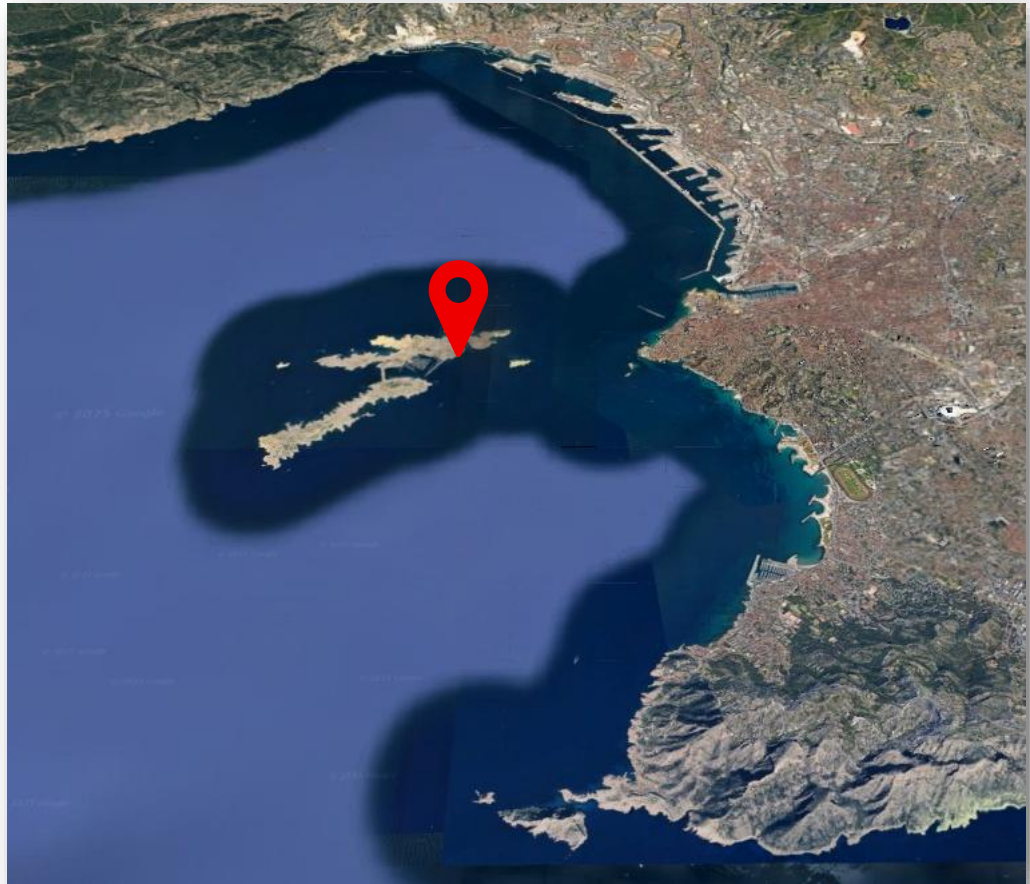
REGATTA VENUE

The Pilots' World Cup would be held in the Bay of Marseille, an emblematic site of France's oldest city.

Located within a National Park, this bay—framed by hills and archipelagos—offers an exceptional nautical setting. It was, moreover, the venue for the sailing events of the 2024 Olympic Games.



At the heart of the Calanques National Park, the Marseilles Pilots' Station would have the honor of hosting the regattas, organized around the Frioul Archipelago — a protected natural site located just ten minutes from the city center.



The Bay of Marseilles and the Frioul Archipelago



View from Marseilles Pilot Station

THE BOAT

The Harbour Pilots' Sailing World Cup would be raced on equal terms, aboard strictly identical sailboats, to ensure complete fairness among the crews. Choosing a one-design competition guarantees better race clarity and enhances both the sporting and recreational aspects of the event.

The selected boats are **Grand Surprise** models, 30ft long, built in France by the Archambault shipyard. Easy to handle, they are specifically designed for racing and optimized for crews of six to seven people.

These boats would be made available in Marseilles by our partner **Team Winds**, also based on the Frioul Islands. Drawing on its extensive experience, Team Winds has the necessary expertise to equip the boats and support the training of crews who wish to benefit from it



SAMPLE REGATTA SCHEDULE

The regattas will start from the island of Frioul, home to the nautical base and the Marseilles Pilots Station.

Each day, specially chartered passenger shuttles will provide transport from the Old Port, offering participants quick and pleasant access to the island.

The on-water organization will be entrusted to our partner **Team Winds**, who will be responsible for designing and setting up the race courses.

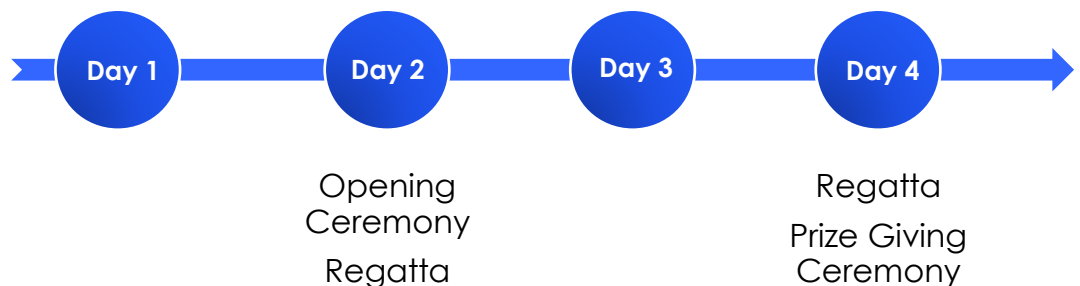
Olympic-style or coastal courses, weaving between the islands and the natural contours of the bay — everything is possible to deliver a competition that is both technical, spectacular, and unforgettable.

Below is a typical program, including an initial welcome day and three days of regatta racing

Welcoming all
sailors

Boat
familiarization
and training
regatta

Regatta
Gala Dinner



CEREMONIES & COCKTAIL

The Opening Ceremony and Prize-Giving Ceremony would take place at the Marseilles Pilots Station, located on the island of Frioul.

This iconic building, constructed 70 years ago, offers a 360° view over the bay and will provide a truly magical setting to welcome participants.

Both ceremonies will be highlights of conviviality and international camaraderie, held in a prestigious setting.



Marseilles Pilot Station



Marseilles Pilot Station - Cocktail

OUR PARTNER TEAM WINDS

Team Winds is a Marseille-based company specializing in corporate and business regattas.

Among their clients are major groups such as **Airbus, Thales, Lacoste, Orange**, and others.

They operate up to **21 Grand Surprise sailboats** and handle all the nautical aspects of the regatta.



WHY ORGANIZE IT IN MARSEILLES?

Marseilles is France's second-largest city and its leading port. The metropolitan area offers all the infrastructure and environment needed to host events of this scale.

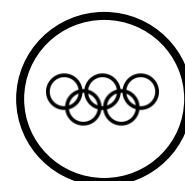
Moreover, the Marseilles Pilot Station has already organized corporate regattas and sporting competitions with over 200 participants. We therefore have both the experience and the setting required to ensure the success of this event.



International airport just 15 minutes from Marseilles



Wide range of accommodation



An Olympic sailing venue in 2024



The outstanding environment of Provence

THE PROJECTED BUDGET

Our ambition is to organize an event that meets the highest standards of our profession. Both on the water and on land, every detail will matter: from perfectly orchestrated regattas to moments of conviviality, we aim to offer a memorable experience that reflects our hospitality and the richness of French gastronomy.

An event of this scale naturally requires the support of committed partners. We therefore rely on the backing of sponsors to co-finance part of the organization. Each team of pilots, as well as the national federations, will contribute financially in the form of a co-payment.

Below, you will find a projected budget estimate based on the participation of **15 boats**.

Boat's rental	23000€
Catering / cocktail	45000€
Logistic	13000€
Clothing / Communication	7000€
Total	88000€
Sponsors	30000€
Participant's share	58000€
Per Team	4000€ all included

Each crew would have to pay approximately €4,000 for the entire regatta and receptions. Only transportation and accommodation would not be included.

AND THEN?

Imagine this regatta coming to life.

Crews from every corner of the globe, gathered around a shared challenge — united by the sea and by the passion for our profession. At the close of the competition, a symbolic trophy would be awarded to the winning team.

Inspired by the spirit of the prestigious America's Cup, this trophy would be contested again at each new edition. The Defender — the reigning champion — would have the honor of organizing the next regatta, carrying forward the values of tradition, excellence, and camaraderie.

Through this initiative, our ambition is clear: to establish a major international gathering for maritime pilots, to create lasting momentum within our community, and to strengthen the bonds that connect us across borders and seas



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