

RV "Gaia Blu": the new CNR ocean vessel

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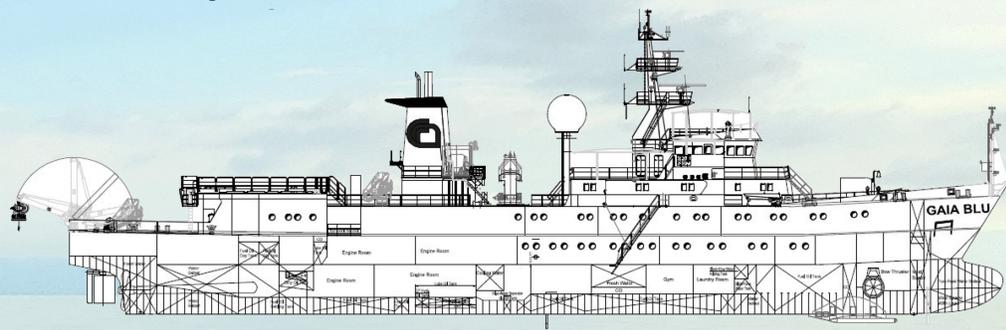
National Research Council of Italy, CNR

FROM RV "FALKOR" TO RV "GAIA BLU"



"Receiving research vessel Falkor from Schmidt Ocean Institute is extremely beneficial for CNR and the entire Italian scientific community," said Prof. Maria Chiara Carrozza, President of CNR. "This donation will foster collaboration with international research institutes and universities involved in studying the anthropogenically impacted Mediterranean basin, one of the cradles of human civilization. Falkor will also offer a unique opportunity to the Italian scientific community to work on the world's ocean on a multi-year plan, within both European and other international projects."

Source: <https://schmidtocean.org/schmidt-ocean-institute-donates-research-vessel-to-the-national-research-council-cnr/>



Length overall: 82.90 m
Beam, overall: 13.00 m
Draft (design): 4.80 m
Gross tonnage: 2024 GT

Maximum speed: 17 knots
Cruising Speed: 11 knots
Survey Speed: 8 knots
Endurance with 44 personnel aboard: 36 days

TOWARDS AN OPERATIONAL PHASE

2022

March, 13

The Smith Ocean Institute (SOI) donates the RV Falkor to CNR

March, 21

The RV Gaia Blu registered under the Italian Flag

2023

August

Refitting: it considered a conventional age reduced by 23

April

Infrastructure upgrade under the Recovery Plan

CURRENT AND FUTURE INVESTMENTS

After the donation from SOI on March 13, 2022, the vessel has undergone arming in order to carry out about 2 Million € the necessary activities for its adaptation to the needs of the scientific community and national regulations.

The operation has included installation of the following equipment:

EM712 Multibeam echosounder subsea suite
Kongsberg

Core barrel system

Carmacoring

ADCP 300kHz, 45 kHz

Codevintec

Infrastructure upgrade under the Recovery Plan: automatic pCO₂ acquisition system, robotic radiometer system (ROSR) for skin SST and atmospheric brightness temperature continuous sampling, radiometers, imaging flow cytobot (IFCB), IOPS continuous sampling system, lidar for marine 3D profiles of ocean color parameters, acoustic modem for underwater mooring data retrieval, automatic XBT probe launcher, remotely operated vehicle (ROV) light work class, etc.

FIRST SCIENTIFIC CAMPAIGN

JAMME GAIA, October 2022

Objective: geophysical prospecting [multibeam (40-400 kHz), chirp (12 kHz), sparker (50 kHz)] from shoreline to 1300 m depth in the Gulf of Naples and video inspections by remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

Preliminary results show high quality data even with 2 m SWH. Synergic work by on board and ashore teams is also being tested, delivering processed data within 24 hours after acquisition.

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