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Oggetto : FINCANTIERI GROUP: VARD SECURES ITS
LARGEST ORDER EVER FROM INKFISH
FOR ONE NEXT-GENERATION DEEP-SEA
RESEARCH VESSEL

Testo del comunicato

Vedi allegato

FINCANTIERI GROUP: VARD SECURES ITS LARGEST ORDER EVER FROM INKFISH FOR ONE NEXT-GENERATION DEEP-SEA RESEARCH VESSEL

VARD, the Norwegian subsidiary of the Fincantieri Group and one of the major global designers and shipbuilders of specialized vessels, has signed a **new contract** with the US-based research organization **Inkfish** for the design and construction of one **groundbreaking deep-sea research vessel**. The value of the order amounts to nearly 700 million euros.

This represents the **largest order ever secured by VARD for a single vessel**, as well as the **largest order of its kind for any Norwegian shipyard**.

The vessel, project-named *RV11000*, is based on the VARD 9 42 design, with a length of 162 meters and a beam of 28 meters, and is scheduled for delivery in Q1 2030. It represents a significant advancement in capability, building on the engineering and design foundations established with the *RV6000* vessel, which VARD contracted in 2025 and is currently building for Inkfish. Both vessels will join the ship owner's growing fleet, supporting marine research worldwide and contributing data to open-source scientific repositories.

Developed by Vard Design in Ålesund, Norway, in close collaboration with Inkfish, *RV11000* is a tailor-made platform designed for **seafloor mapping, coring and sampling, submarine operations, and ROV activities at depths of up to 11,000 meters**. The unit will enable a wide range of deep-ocean missions, including the deployment and support of submersibles, ROVs and autonomous vehicles.

The vessel will feature one of the **largest battery installations ever fitted on a ship, enabling up to 12 hours of silent operations for scientific missions**, alongside a highly advanced propulsion system combining DC technology with battery hybrid solutions. The hull is optimized for high-performance seafloor mapping, ensuring excellent station-keeping and enhanced operational efficiency, while advanced stabilizers will minimize motion and accelerations.

The unit will also be certified in accordance with the latest IACS **cybersecurity requirements, ensuring a high level of resilience and protection of critical onboard systems** against evolving digital threats.

Pierroberto Folgiero, CEO and Managing Director of Fincantieri, commented: *"This contract marks a milestone for the Fincantieri Group, representing the largest order ever secured by VARD for a single vessel and confirming our role as a global reference player in advanced, highly specialized shipbuilding for underwater operations. Fincantieri plays a key enabling role in the development of highly technological solutions, supporting the creation of unique platforms for the most demanding deep-sea applications. The project combines scale, technological complexity and scientific ambition, reflecting our ability to design and deliver next-generation solutions for deep-sea exploration. It also underlines the strategic importance of the underwater domain for Fincantieri, where we continue to invest and innovate,*

leveraging our distinctive capabilities to support increasingly complex missions, from scientific research to the monitoring and protection of critical underwater infrastructure.”

Onboard facilities will include state-of-the-art laboratories, workshops and scientific spaces, as well as high-level accommodation for up to 130 crew members and researchers, designed to ensure optimal comfort and enable the highest standards of scientific work.

Through its integrated value chain, VARD will manage the entire project, including design, hull construction, outfitting, integration and commissioning. The hull will be built at Vard Shipyards Romania in Tulcea, while outfitting, commissioning and delivery will be carried out at one of the Group’s shipyards in Norway.

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Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups, the only player active in all high complexity marine industry sectors. The Group is a leader in the construction of cruise ships, naval and offshore vessels, and stands out for its extensive experience in the development of underwater solutions, thanks to its integrated industrial structure capable of managing and coordinating all activities related to the commercial, defense, and dual-use sectors.

It holds a strong presence in key markets also thanks to the internalization of high value-added, distinctive technologies; it is also a leader in sustainable innovation and in the digital transformation of the shipbuilding sector. The company is active in the field of mechatronics, electronics, and digital naval systems, as well as in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and marine interiors solutions. It also offers a wide range of after-sales services, including logistic support and fleet assistance.

With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri is a global player with a production network of 18 shipyards worldwide and over 24,000 employees; It maintains its know-how, expertise and management centers in Italy, where it directly employs approximately 13,000 workers and creates around 90,000 indirect jobs.

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