

Last week, the Flemish Government decided to invest in the construction of a second towing tank in Flanders. This breaking news gives us an excellent reason to distribute a special issue of the [newsletter](#) of the *Knowledge Centre Manoeuvring in Shallow and Confined Water*, which aims to consolidate, extend and disseminate knowledge on the behaviour of ships in shallow and confined water.

We are very pleased to announce that the Flemish Government has decided to invest 30.7 million euros to construct a new maritime research centre in Ostend. The research centre will include a shallow water [towing tank](#) and a wave basin. The Knowledge Centre has strongly insisted for a very long time on the construction of a second shallow water [towing tank](#). The new tank will be 174 m long and 20 m wide with water depths of up to 1 m, which is significantly larger than the [towing tank](#) at Flanders Hydraulics Research in Antwerp. The present towing tank is constantly fully booked and is becoming quite small because of the increased main dimensions of the largest vessels over the last decade. Besides a significant extension of the ship hydrodynamics research capacity, the new [towing tank](#) will allow ship models of up to 8 m long to be tested, which opens opportunities for new research applications. The second [towing tank](#) will be managed by partners of the Knowledge Centre.



The new maritime research centre will also include a 30 m long, 30 m wide and 1.5 m deep wave basin in order to test off-shore and shore protection structures and wave and tidal energy converters under different environmental conditions. Having both the [towing tank](#) and wave basin within the same facilities will create an important synergy of talent and experience.

The construction of the new maritime research centre will start in the spring of 2017 and is scheduled to be fully operational by 2020.

A technical visit to the new maritime research gives you another reason to attend the 5th MASHCON conference, which will be held in Ostend from 20 to 22 May 2019 !



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