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ELVAL provides the aluminium for the pioneering LNG-powered, high-speed catamaran, Margarita Salas.

Baleària has recently unveiled its latest addition, the LNG-powered, high-speed catamaran Margarita Salas, built at the Armon Shipyard in Gijón, Spain. Elval, the aluminium rolling division of ElvalHalcor SA, has a long-standing business partnership with Armon Shipyard.

The pioneering catamaran was named after Margarita Salas, an exceptional educator, and a pioneering scientist in molecular biology. This remarkable vessel combines the most competitive features of its predecessor, the world's longest dual gas engines fast ferry Eleanor Roosevelt, enhanced with a series of innovations in design and engineering. Margarita Salas is equipped with four dual-fuel 9,600 kW engines running on natural gas, allowing it to reach a speed of 35 knots, 10% more power than the Eleanor Roosevelt. The impressive ship has two LNG tanks, which give it a range of 470 miles on gas, and an overall range of 1,000 miles. It measures 123 metres in length and can accommodate 1,200 passengers and 400 cars on its car deck.

The new catamaran is the eleventh in Baleària's fleet of ships equipped with dual gas engines. Adolfo Utor, president of Baleària said: "These ships are currently fueled by natural gas, but in the future, they will be able to consume renewable CO₂-neutral energies. Our investment of more than EUR 500 million in this fleet allows us to use the best fuel available today, which cuts emissions even further, and sets us up for decarbonisation in the future." Indeed, the sister ship of Margarita Salas, the fast ferry Eleanor Roosevelt, emitted 11,000 tonnes of CO₂ less in the year 2023 thanks to running on natural gas.

Armon Shipyard Group co-president Laudelino Alperi said "This new vessel is another step towards excellence in shipbuilding in Spain, where aluminium is the key ingredient. This material offers advantages such as being lighter in weight which, as a result, reduces fuel consumption and helps to lower the ship's carbon footprint. Aluminium is a highly recyclable material, which facilitates its reuse at the end of the vessel's useful life."

Babis Chaikos, Elval's Commercial Senior Director commented "Elval has 50 years of expertise in tailor-made, flat-rolled aluminium manufacturing and is honoured by its selection as the aluminium supplier for this state-of-the-art vessel. This collaboration emphasizes our commitment to deliver world-class aluminium for marine solutions of exceptional strength, ductility, corrosion resistance and weldability while accelerating the marine industry's journey towards a low-carbon future."

Margarita Salas will commence operations in Q3 2024.

About Baleària:

Baleària is the leading shipping group in Spain, with more than 25 years of history in the maritime transport of passengers, vehicles and goods, with routes that link mainland Spain with the Balearic Islands, Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla daily. It is also the only maritime company that connects the four islands in the Balearic archipelago. Internationally, it operates in North Africa (Morocco and Algeria), the south of France, and links the United States and the Bahamas. The shipping company is a global benchmark in sustainability thanks to its pioneering commitment to eco-efficient mobility driven by cleaner and more eco-friendly energy sources, such as natural gas. The company shares its commitment and participates in projects linked to the use of renewable energies, to achieve zero-emission shipping by 2050. For more information about Baleària please visit www.balearia.com

About Armon Shipyards:

Founded in 1963, Armon Shipyards have been present in the shipbuilding industry for more than 60 years, always at the edge of innovation and adapting to the evolution of the shipping industry, having more than 950 vessels successfully delivered up to date all over the five continents. Armon's Group combine the power of six factories including three technical offices and one storage, cutting and pre-assembly steel/aluminium centre, giving support to the whole group and permitting Armon's Shipyards to develop tailor-made projects from basic design to final delivery of the vessel. For more information about Armon please visit www.astillerosarmon.com

About Elval:

Elval is the aluminium rolling division of ElvalHalcor SA (ELHA:ATH), a leading global aluminium and copper manufacturer with a strong production base across 15 plants, cutting-edge technology and a solid market presence in more than 90 countries. Elval has 50 years of rolling and recycling expertise, designing and manufacturing innovative aluminium solutions while building trusted partnerships across the globe. The extensive custom-made product portfolio serves the packaging, transportation, automotive, HVAC&R, building and construction, energy and industrial markets. Through continuous investments in R&D&I and the in-house Technology Centre, we invest in highly specialized human talent, responsible production and environmental protection, enabling the transition to climate neutrality and the contribution of aluminium to a circular economy. For more information about Elval, please visit www.elval.com