

# Wubbo Ockels introduces green sailing yacht 'Ecolution'

**On Friday 13 August 2010, the eco-friendly sailing yacht 'Ecolution' was baptized. Ecolution is the first ship build by the Dutch company 'Ecolutions BV'. Wubbo Ockels, who also designed the Superbus, wants to set an example for sustainable development. Victron Energy is sponsor of Ecolution and designed the back-up systems on board of the yacht.**

The use of sustainable energy is growing rapidly over the years. Energy generated by sun, wind and water is becoming very popular and interesting for a wide range of markets. During his spaceflight in 1985 Wubbo Ockels suddenly realized that planet earth is vulnerable and needs to be protected. "We have to learn to live sustainable, on every scale", Ockels says in his movie at the Ecolutions-website. "Therefore, I am building the Ecolution".

### **Generating energy from water, wind and sun**

The Ecolution is a 26 meter long sailing yacht, equipped with many sustainable techniques. During sailing the yacht develops substantial power, of which a part can be tapped without imposing significant reduction of sailing qualities. Two propellers are placed between the rudders of the vessel not only for propulsion but also for generating energy. The use of solar energy on the yacht is still in development.

### **Comfortable sailing**

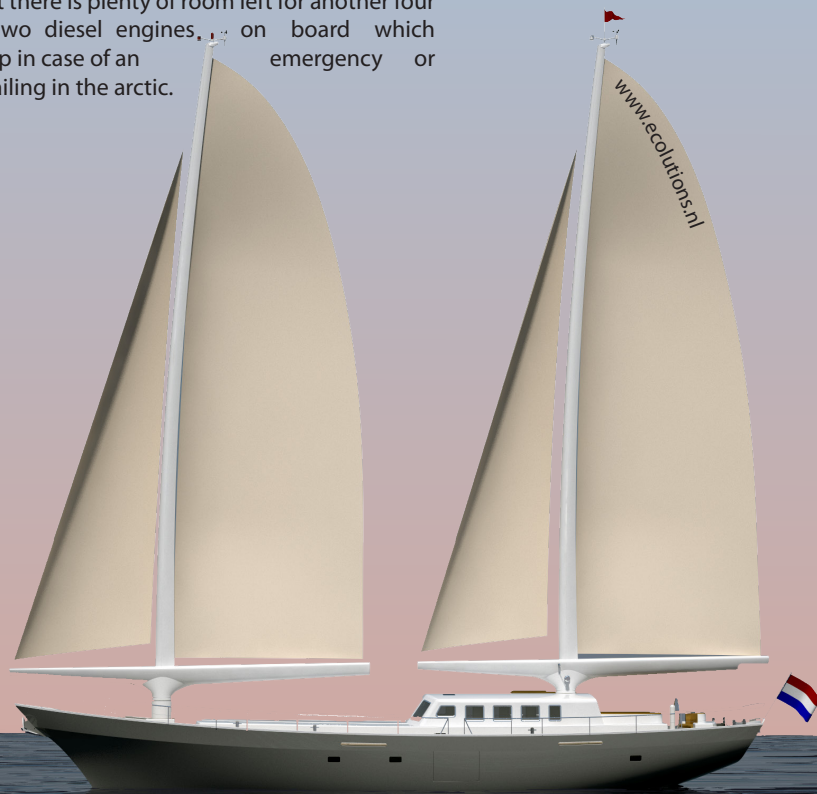
Calculations show that four days of sailing in moderate climates will produce enough energy to live on board for a month. Two people can sail the Ecolution, but there is plenty of room left for another four passengers. There are two diesel engines on board which are only used as a back-up in case of an emergency or for extra heating when sailing in the arctic.

### **Robust back-up system from Victron Energy**

A safe and smart battery system has been designed by Victron specialist Johannes Boonstra. The energy generated by the Ecolution will be stored in 120 Victron batteries. With a total weight of 10.000 kg, the batteries will replace the use of conventional lead-ballast. The batteries are connected to a 24V Centaur charger and several Quattro Inverters/Chargers from Victron Energy. Wubbo Ockels is very happy with the system: 'It is a great back-up system, even when the central system fails there will still be an extra back-up'.

### **Future**

In the future a series of eco-friendly yachts will be built. Wubbo Ockels is determined to test his latest invention in person. But first, the Ecolution will be exhibited at SAIL Amsterdam and the Amsterdam in-water Boat Show 2010.



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Photo 1: Victron equipment is being installed at the bottom of the yacht.



Photo 2: Ecolution baptized in Dutch city 'Groningen'.