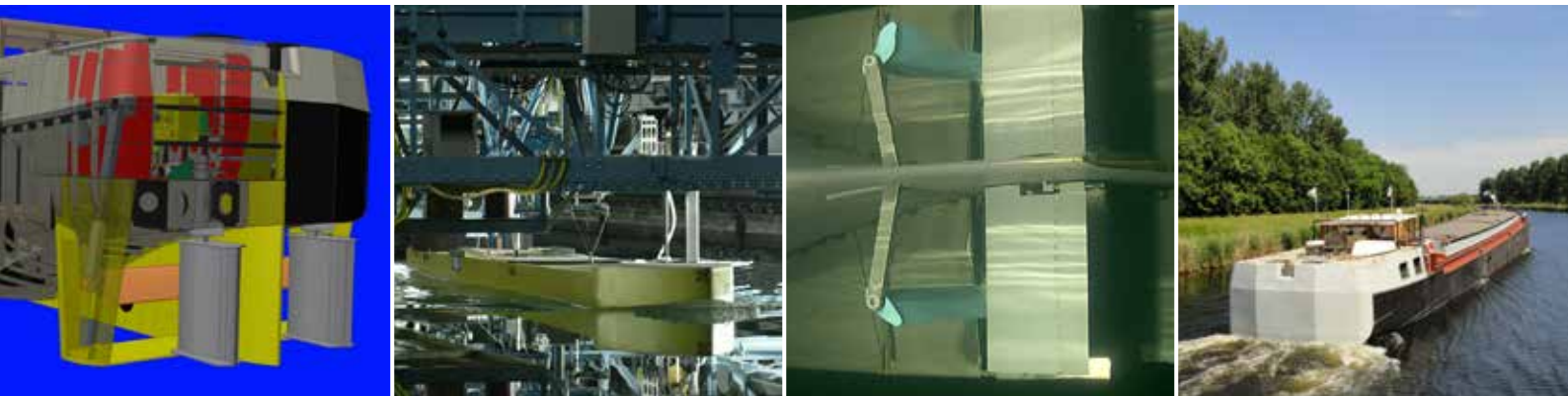# Free slots available at new Concept Basin

In a bold new initiative designed to stimulate Dutch maritime innovation, MARIN has created a Concept Basin.

Innovation starts with new ideas and new concepts. MARIN aims to help its customers during the concept design phase of their projects and to support this, the existing High Speed Basin is undergoing a meta-morphosis into a new Concept Basin.

Additionally, to stimulate innovation in the Dutch maritime sector, MARIN has launched a new initiative offering free tests in the Concept Basin. Dutch Small & Medium Enterprises (known as MKB organisations in the Netherlands) will be given free basin slots of two weeks to test their new ideas and concepts. These tests allow feasibility checks and improvements at an early phase of a concept's development.

The idea for this initiative started with O-foil, a Dutch start-up that tested its first Proof of Concept at MARIN. Extensive tests and calculations were done for the O-foil concept, which is an integrated propulsion system consisting of a wide impellent wing, a hybrid drive train and an adapted manoeuvring system. Positive test results led to an acceleration of further research and the eventual implementation by O-Foil. Today, the first inland ship with O-foil propulsion and the integrated power system is in operation. This provides a good example of how MARIN wants to support and stimulate innovation.

Enthusiastic response Each year there will be calls for six projects lasting two weeks each. The first call closed last December and there was a terrific response. Demand was so strong that MARIN has already allocated the six projects for 2014. MARIN considers all applications with selection criteria based on several aspects, such as innovation, feasibility and added value.

MARIN's Concept Basin has a length of 220 m, a width of 4 m and a depth of 4 m. The basin, which is filled with fresh water, will be fully modernised with a new, strong overhead carriage, wave generator and wave-absorbing beach.

Jaap de Wilde
j.dewilde@marin.nl