



SAILONE

Autonomous Atlantic Sailboat

Microtransat Challenge 2027

Setúbal, Portugal · Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon · Prusa Research

THE MISSION

2.1m

Vessel Length

100%

Autonomous

~6,500km

Atlantic Crossing

Sailone is a student-led engineering project based in Setúbal, Portugal, building a fully autonomous 2.1-metre sailboat to compete in the Microtransat Challenge - an open competition for robotic vessels to cross the Atlantic Ocean unassisted.

No crew. No remote control. Pure engineering.

THE VESSEL & TECHNOLOGY

Autonomous Navigation



GPS, IMU, and custom autopilot algorithms guide the vessel across thousands of kilometres with zero human intervention.

Solar Power



Flexible solar panels power all onboard systems including navigation computers, sensors, and communication modules.

Oceanographic Sensors



Measures temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and biological footprint — contributing real scientific data.

3D-Printed Components



Key structural parts produced with Prusa Research printers, enabling rapid iteration and weight optimisation.

OCEAN SCIENCE MISSION

Real Data from the Real Ocean

In collaboration with biologists at Instituto Superior Técnico (University of Lisbon), Sailone is developing a suite of oceanographic sensors that collect continuous environmental data throughout the crossing.

This data will be made openly available to the scientific community.

Partner: Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon

Sea Surface Temperature

Salinity

Dissolved Oxygen

Biological Footprint

PARTNERSHIPS & REACH



Prusa Research

Largest 3D printer manufacturer
in Europe & North America

300,000+ Instagram followers
Multiple feature posts confirmed



Instituto Superior Técnico

University of Lisbon
Top-ranked engineering faculty

Joint oceanographic sensor
development programme

MEDIA & VISIBILITY

Social Media

Regular project updates, build diaries, and ocean-crossing live tracking across Instagram, X, and YouTube

Prusa Research Features

Multi-post coverage on Prusa's Instagram (300K+ followers) highlighting Sailone's engineering and 3D-printed components

Scientific Publications

Oceanographic sensor data and mission findings will be published in collaboration with IST researchers

Press & Media

Coverage opportunities across Portuguese and international engineering and ocean science media

Hull & Sail Branding

Sponsor logos prominently displayed on the vessel hull, sail, and all official photography and video content

Event Appearances

Presentations at maker fairs, ocean technology events, and university showcases across Europe

THE MICROTRANSAT CHALLENGE

What is the Microtransat?

The Microtransat Challenge is an international competition for fully autonomous sailing vessels under 2.4 metres in length to cross the Atlantic Ocean without any human assistance.

Originally proposed in 2005 and first attempted in 2010, it remains one of the most demanding autonomous ocean robotics challenges in existence. No team has yet completed a successful crossing — Sailone aims to be the first.

2005

Challenge proposed by researchers at Toulouse & Edinburgh

2010

First autonomous crossing attempt

2026

Sailone enters the challenge

2027

Target crossing year

THE TEAM

A multidisciplinary student-led team combining naval engineering, electronics, software development, and ocean biology.

Naval Architecture

Hull design, stability analysis, and hydrodynamic optimisation for the 2.1m vessel

Electronics & Power

Solar energy harvesting, battery management, and waterproof embedded systems

Software & AI

Autopilot algorithms, sensor fusion, satellite communications, and route planning

Ocean Biology

Sensor design and data collection protocol in partnership with IST researchers

WHERE THE OCEAN MEETS ENGINEERING

Be Part of the Journey

sailone.org

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