

### **Zeabuz strengthens Executive Team with Erik Dyrkoren as CEO**

Zeabuz, a company recently founded by prominent NTNU professors with the aim to develop and deliver a new service for urban, emission free, autonomous ferries, today announced that Erik Dyrkoren has been hired as the company's CEO. Dyrkoren replaces Susanne Jäschke who has been interim CEO through [NTNU Technology Transfer](#). Dyrkoren will join the founding team, become a shareholder and start working in full from April 1st.

Dyrkoren joins Zeabuz after having been the CEO of the underwater drone startup Blueye Robotics - a company he founded with partners 4,5 years ago. In that time Dyrkoren managed the company all the way from conceptualization, prototyping, industrialization, manufacturing and global sales with all support functions in place. Dyrkoren's focus was to create an attractive company for both employees, investors and customers through emphasis on user experience in product design, a strong brand and creating a bold innovation culture.

Before Blueye, Dyrkoren managed a Norwegian private-public partnership project called Maritim21, where the aim was to facilitate cooperation across maritime related research communities around the country. During the five years with Maritim21, Dyrkoren grew a large maritime network and focused on utilizing the network to find joint solutions to common challenges that would spin off into long-term collaborative research projects.

*"We are glad and proud that Erik has accepted to join the funding team and take up the role as the CEO of Zeabuz. Erik has a proven track record, a wide industry insight and the leadership capabilities needed to scale Zeabuz nationally and globally. I will also thank our Board member Susanne for leading Zeabuz as our interim CEO in the transition period",* Zeabuz Chairman Bjørn Haugland states about the new hire.

*"I am very excited to get started on a project with such a strong founding team, high ambitions and world changing potential."* Dyrkoren says about entering the new position.

*"NTNU Technology Transfer has been responsible for business development, IP management, recruitment and marketing of Zeabuz to date. With his experience and passion Erik will be a perfect candidate to take Zeabuz to the next level. This is part of our strategy to involve serial entrepreneurs, investors and industry early",* says Stein Eggen, CEO of NTNU TTO.

### **About Zeabuz**

Zeabuz is a NTNU spin-off which aims to revitalize urban waterways in smart cities through autonomous electric passenger ferries. The concept is founded on their world leading autonomy solution which enables self-driving ferries to safely maneuver among other boats, dock to the quay by themselves and handle passengers safely. Organizations such as DNV GL, the Norwegian Coastal Administration and the Norwegian Maritime Directorate are called upon when prototypes are tested in Zeabuz's home city, Trondheim, to ensure that regulations can be modernized on pace with technology development.

NTNU researchers and entrepreneurs behind Zeabuz include Asgeir J. Sørensen of Marine Cybernetics, Ecotone and Eelume; Tor Arne Johansen of Marine Cybernetics, Scout Drone Inspection, and UBIQ Aerospace, and Egil Eide of 3D radar. The company aims to build a new global venture together with the strong Norwegian maritime cluster and is now seeking to grow its ranks and attract further talent from Norway and beyond.

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