



## Press Release

**Stan Shih (founder of Acer) and Gunter Pauli (creator of The Blue Economy)  
Join forces with a consortium of industries to create a sustainable maritime industry**

**Taiwan, 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 at 17:00 hrs (GMT+8).** Today Stan Shih, the icon of the electronics industry in Asia and founder of the ACER Group with now 24 companies quoted on stock exchanges; and, Gunter Pauli, entrepreneur and author of The Blue Economy who created a model for sustainability followed widely by the United Nations, announced a joint revolutionary approach to maritime transport and island development.

Based on the 12 years of hands on experience, Stan and Gunter backed up by an extraordinary list of industry leaders announced the construction of **a new type and series of zero emission ships. The goal is to create a new worldwide industry.** Porrima, the icon of sustainable shipping will undergo a complete refit in Taiwan in Kaohsiung starting this fall. The refit, inspired by 160,000 km of circumnavigating the earth several times, will be used as a fast-track learning platform to train a core group of naval engineers to build this new class of vessels. The new venture will immediately proceed with the construction of three smaller versions of the iconic Porrima, which will be ready by February 2025.

The integration of **solar, hydrogen made from sea water on board, an intelligent kite with robotics** plus the recovery of woke power from the sea by reversing the propeller has been successfully tested and operated on Porrima over the past decade. However, the complex and continuous decision making on board by the Captain and first engineer requires a breakthrough Artificial Intelligence.

**The blending of the hands-on experience of Porrima and the AI design capabilities will create a highly competitive zero emissions boat** that will require no fuel ever, not even a back-up diesel generator. “The ACER Group of companies, which spun off **Wistron** in 2001 masters the AI. The application of AI to the maritime industry offers entry for the company in a multi-billion dollar industry that today is classified as the most polluting form of transport. We can make a difference,” comments Stan Shih, founder and honorary chairman of ACER.

**Several technology leaders have marked their interest to join this initiative. Wistron,** a world leader in information and communication related product design, manufacturing, services, and systems will be instrumental in industrializing the manufacturing of the Porrima family of ships. **Formosa Plastics** will support the creation of a novel carbon fiber to build the super light and performing demi-hulls that characterize the Porrima family of boats. The solar cells will feature the latest spin-off of **ITRI called RePV** with already 92% recycled solar cell content reducing carbon footprint by 60%. **Xing Mobility,**



a start-up based in Taipei will provide the immersion cooled battery packs. The **SkySails from Germany** which were already part of Porrima since 2017 will be fully automated, enlarged to 60 m<sup>2</sup> and produced by Wistron.

The 12 years of know-how by sailing across all oceans, combined with the innovations integrated in 2023, serial production and AI will create **an engine of growth in the regional economy**. “I have been friends with Stan for 40 years. I learned throughout the years that Taiwan has dozens of innovations that warrant the creation of the highly competitive new maritime industry”, argues Gunter, the owner of Porrima who will join as a shareholder in the new company with headquarters in Taipei.

Taiwan is already the 4<sup>th</sup> largest manufacturer of yachts in the world. However, the ship builders import design and components from overseas. This will change fundamentally under the leadership of this new venture, and influence the whole economy. Taiwan is home for Evergreen, Yang Ming and Wan Hai, three of the top ten shipping companies in the world which control +10% of world container cargo transport. **Yang Ming and Wan Hai** already subscribed to the vision of Gunter to create a new category of ships: the zero emissions vessels, that burn no fuel or diesel back-up and are driven by AI.

The power of the AI ship model is that the same technology mix can be applied to small islands which nearly all depend 100% on diesel generators for power and drinking water. This means that the new company **Porrima Inc** which was established in August this year will have two markets: in addition to the 60,000 seafaring diesel ships that will need to be replaced in the next 25 years, there are 600,000 small island communities which all will need to shift to sustainability. **If fuel turns 100% renewable, then the cash that used to flow out of the small island economy, will remain in the local economy contributing to a strong impulse for growth and competitiveness.** This is the Blue Economy !

**For more information:**

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Porrima sailing off the Coast of Oman, Indian Ocean. Photo by Audrey Meunier



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Porrima sailing off the coast of Taiwan, South China Sea with kite. Photo by Audrey Meunier