



Lifeboats

LIFEBOAT

INNOVATE AND
REPURPOSE

Our orange lifeboats need a green afterlife

Challenge overview



This project is co-funded
by the European Union



THE CHALLENGE

What will you do with a 27-tonne lifesaver?

Image Ref: 39130
Poole Tyne class
City of Sheffield
47-023

Swanage Mersey class
Robert Charles Brown
12-23



Photo: RNLI/Rob Inett

During the next decade, the RNLI will need to decommission 86 lifeboats as they come to the end of their operational life. Many of them weigh 27 tonnes.

It's a weighty problem. In previous years we have sold off whole boats, extending their useful lives and recovering as much value as we can. We've also taken parts back into stock as spares, where appropriate. But demand for ex-lifeboats and their parts is shrinking. Modern composites used in their construction are notoriously difficult to recycle and landfill is the last resort. So we have a two-fold challenge:

1. Recover best value from the lifeboat materials, components and systems onboard
2. Ensure future lifeboats are designed for disassembly, recycling and reuse.

That's where you come in. Has your company or organisation got an existing solution to offer us already? Or do you have the knowledge to find an innovative solution that will minimise the environmental impact of decommissioned lifeboats?

Come along to our challenge event and you'll be able to:

- network and collaborate with like-minded, international specialists, individuals and organisations from relevant industries and academia
- increase your industry and technical knowledge
- identify potential solutions that may also benefit a number of industry sectors
- expand your potential business advantages and commercial opportunities
- establish yourself as a market leader in reducing materials and equipment disposal
- gain knowledge of prospective local, regional and European funding opportunities for innovation and low carbon solutions
- provide yourself with a possible opportunity to enter into a formal commercial relationship with the RNLI

Let's make it happen

We'd like you to join us on 22 April 2015 for an all-day event. We'll explore what the opportunities are and gather the information you need to submit innovative and commercial proposals that will help solve the RNLI's challenge.



Lifeboat materials breakdown

WHO WE ARE

The RNLI

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

Image Ref: 32983

Baltimore Tyne class
Hilda Jarrett
47-024

Image Ref: 40337

Alderney Trent class
Roy Barker
14-04

Image Ref: 34627

Eastbourne Mersey class
The Royal Thames
12-36



Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard



Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard



Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard

We are the charity that saves lives at sea and aim to end all preventable loss of life from drowning.

We provide an on-call 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service around the UK and Republic of Ireland, seasonal lifeguards, flood rescue, safety advice and an international drowning reduction programme.

This challenge is part of the RNLI's Sustainability Strategy. It has the ultimate vision to create more value than is taken, which includes a duty to decommission lifeboats responsibly and a desire to reduce our environmental impacts and costs.

There are currently nine different classes of lifeboat – six all-weather and three inshore – as well as hovercraft, inshore rescue boats and rescue watercraft. The active fleet, in a range of locations, has over 340 lifeboats, ranging from 3.9–17m in length, along with over 100 lifeboats in the relief fleet.

Three classes of large, all-weather lifeboats are due to be decommissioned – 12 Tyne class and 37 Mersey class lifeboats from 2015, and 37 Trent class lifeboats from 2019.

LoToNo

This challenge is run in partnership with LoToNo, a European-funded initiative based in Hampshire. LoToNo supports companies with innovative products and services that reduce carbon and environmental impact. We also support those seeking a transition to sustainable or circular economy business models.

LoToNo is helping the RNLI to source a network of experts to meet this challenge.



Providing a search and rescue service around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland.

JOIN US!

We can't tackle this challenge alone. So please join us – and see what commercial opportunities there could be for your organisation

Image Ref: 38682
RNLI College



Photo: RNLI/Joe McCarthy

Come along to our Technical Briefing on 22 April 2015 in Poole, Dorset, UK.

You'll have the opportunity to talk to RNLI specialists, network with other experts in your field and tour one of the lifeboats to be decommissioned. You'll also play a key role in a series of workshops that will consider how the lifeboats' materials could be reused, repurposed or recycled.

We'll also provide guidance on how to submit a proposal and discuss how you can protect your ideas.

Sign up to our challenge

We really want you to come on board so please let us know if you can make the event. To take part you need to sign up at RNLIChallenge.org.uk. You will then be given access to all the relevant information you need to take part.

If you are interested in taking part in the challenge but you can't attend on 22 April, you can still sign up to receive access to the presentations, videos and proposal submission forms, which will be available after the event. Let us know by signing up at RNLIChallenge.org.uk.

There are limited places on this special day so please register before 15 April 2015 and help us to maximise the value of lifeboats at the end of their operational life.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the challenge
please submit them via RNLICheck.org.uk.

