

Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior III debuts

July 4 2011



The new "Rainbow Warrior III" sailing ship is lowered into the water at the Fassmer shipyard in Berne-Motzen near Bremen, northern Germany. Greenpeace unveiled a new weapon in its campaign against environmental destruction -- the 23 million euro (\$33.4 million) ship dubbed the Rainbow Warrior III.

Greenpeace unveiled a new weapon in its campaign against environmental destruction on Monday -- a 23 million euro (\$33.4 million) ship dubbed the [Rainbow Warrior III](#).

The state-of-the-art vessel went afloat in Berne-Motzen in northern Germany ahead of its official launch to mark Greenpeace's 40th birthday in October.

The original Rainbow Warrior, a converted fishing trawler, was sunk by French agents in New Zealand in 1985 while attempting to stop [nuclear testing](#) in the Pacific.

The second is more than 50 years old and is being retired after having been "rammed, raided and bombed" in numerous campaigns against nuclear testing, over-fishing and [illegal logging](#), [Greenpeace](#) says.

The 58-metre-long (190-foot-long) Rainbow Warrior III is the first to be built from scratch to its own specifications.

The boat is powered by sails on its 50-metre masts, by an electric motor allowing it to reach a top speed of 10 knots (18 km/h) and a diesel engine giving it 15 knots (28 km/h).

Capable of housing a crew of up to 33 for four weeks without outside supplies, it also has a helipad in the stern and its masts will be decked out with 48 antennae and other pieces of [electronic gadgetry](#).

"It's a symbol of our fight," said Greenpeace Germany member Christian Bussau.

"We want the Greenpeace tradition of protecting the sea to continue, and that's why, for a third time, we're calling this vessel the Rainbow Warrior."

The ship was constructed at the 161-year-old German shipyard Fassmer.

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