ANNOUNCEMENT · OCTOBER 15, 2026

First Node

Clippership team
South San Francisco, CA

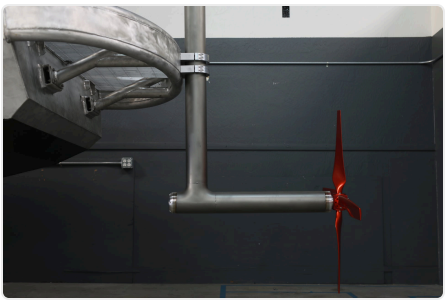
Last week we revealed our first ocean data center to a group of close friends and partners. It was designed and built to incorporate the critical technologies that enable our upcoming 3MWe token factory and using the same supply chains (aluminum hull built by our partner shipyard, large-diameter hydrokinetic turbine, high-lift wing sail, and seawater cooling).

The story

In the summer of 2024, we started developing the foundational technologies that underpin the system: the high-lift wing sail, the weather-aware autonomy stack, and the onboard power generation system. Over the next 18 months we'd iterate through 3 major revisions, with each version undergoing extensive open ocean testing through a range of operating conditions, from calm through gale. Then, in January 2026 we kicked off the design of the system that would incorporate these technologies, each already mature and refined out on open ocean. Just nine months after a blank sheet design kickoff, the CS12 is ready to splash down.

This would not have been possible with any other team. The level of expertise, grit, urgency, and raw talent that sits on the Clippership team is unmatched. And it's really no surprise. We draw from the Roadster and Optimus teams at Tesla, the Mercedes Formula 1 Team, Tier 1 Special Ops groups, Damen, and Microsoft.

Figure 1. Clippership's first node in the workshop.



Figures 2 & 3. Wing and Turbine assembly details.

Figure 4. Navigation and vessel-monitoring systems at the reveal.

So why now?

Over the past few weeks, debt markets have signaled low confidence in the viability of land-based data center buildout, even as token consumption is exploding, and GPU rental prices are skyrocketing in a 'Monty Python cheese shop' level supply scarcity environment. The main culprits: access to power, permitting issues, and familiar land-based infrastructure construction delays prevent bought and paid for GPUs from coming online.

To that we say:

1. Data centers should be operated on the ocean where consistent power, space, and cooling are abundant. From a regulatory perspective, these are ships, whose permitting process is straightforward, well defined, and fast.

2. Data centers should be manufactured in shipyards that already build systems of equivalent complexity and size in 12-18 months, not built as one-off real estate projects where the 100th GW is just as hard as the 10th GW.

Next up: launch and sea trials, then power and first tokens.