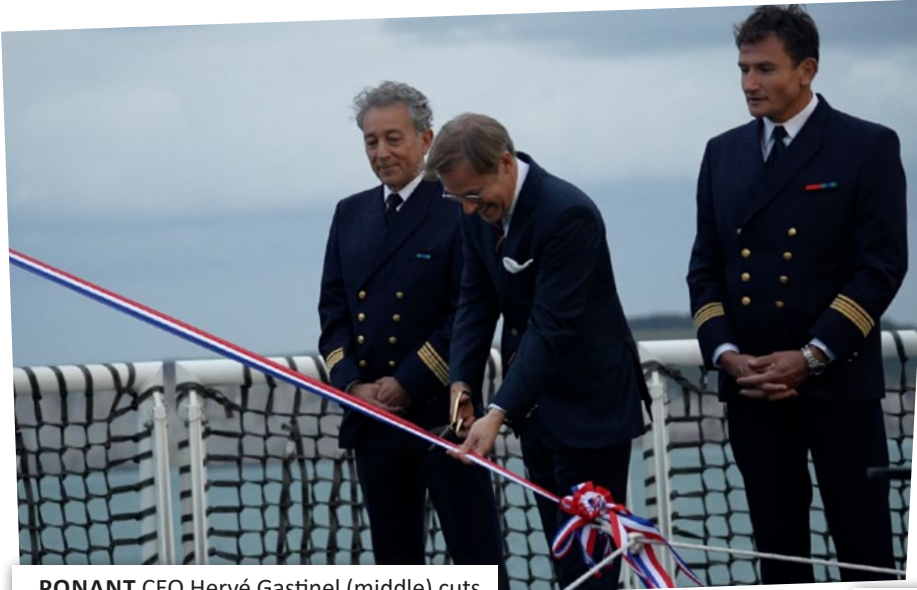


# Le Commandant Charcot gets ready

LAST week, PONANT celebrated the launch of *Le Commandant Charcot* in Le Havre, France, a major milestone for the world leader of luxury expeditions.

The ship had successfully reached the geographic North Pole in early September during her dry run, a first for a French vessel. *Le Commandant Charcot* is the world's first LNG-powered hybrid-electric luxury polar exploration vessel, and PONANT's newest addition to a fleet of 12 small luxury expedition vessels, making it a total of 13 ships.



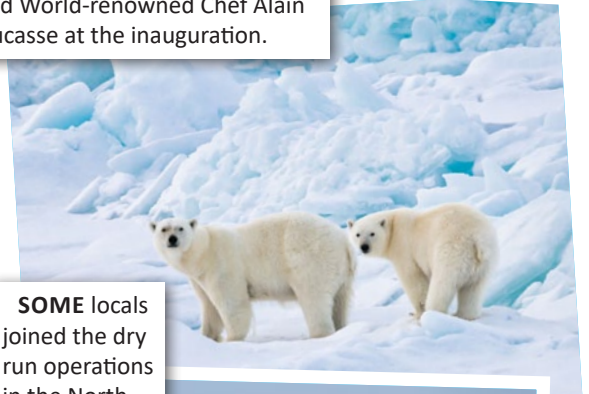
**PONANT CEO Hervé Gastinel (middle) cuts the inaugural ribbon at Le Havre, France.**



**PONANT CEO Hervé Gastinel and World-renowned Chef Alain Ducasse at the inauguration.**



**THE launch of *Le Commandant Charcot* took place in Le Havre, in Normandy, France on 28 & 29 Sep.**



**SOME locals joined the dry run operations in the North Pole too!**



**LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT reached the geographic North Pole on 06 Sep at 6:38pm AEST.**



**TESTING the waters. Expedition experts and crew explore and test Zodiacs during the dry run operations in the Arctic.**



**PANORAMIC view from Le Blue Lagoon on deck 9, an outdoor heated lagoon that uses recycled heat.**