



**Alessandro Di Benedetto:
First Single-handed Around the World non stop without
assistance on a 21 feet boat**

Start from Les Sables d'Olonne on Sunday, October 25th 2009 at 8 a.m.

Communiqué n°1

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After having crossed the Atlantic and Pacific oceans on an uninhabitable catamaran, Alessandro Di Benedetto, 38 year old, a French and Italian geologist is ready to go for a new and great adventure: a solo trip around the world, non-stop, without assistance on a 21 feet sailing boat. In case he succeeds this attempt will become a world first , and a world record ratified by the World Sailing Speed Record Council / International Sailing Federation

Findomestic Banca is finally ready to hoist up sails after a lot of months of preparation. The *Black box* sent by WWSRC/ISAF so as to follow the route of the bold sailor has just been set on board. Let it be repeated that Alessandra will have to respect the same rules than the race Vendée Globe: go around the world leaving on the left the three capes: Agulhas, Leeuwin and Horn in order to have his record ratified.

*Alessandro di Benedetto will leave the Sables d'Olonne on Sunday, October 25th 2009 .
The dauntless navigator will cast off from the Vendée Globe landing stage at about 7.30 in the morning to cut the start line at about 8 a.m. Mr Jean Jacques Clerc as the World Sailing Speed Record Council/International Sailing Federation commissioner, will note down the exact time of the official chronometer at the departure at the southern buoy . He will be with Mr Archambeau,
director of the harbour master's office of Olona.*

First big challenge for Alessandro: sailing across the Bay of Biscay. As the sailors know, it's a difficult place because of the numerous ways with low pressure. The boat can be driven against the rocky coasts where there is shallow water.

The lonely sailor will go forward the south, along the European and African coasts; then he will head for the East leaving on his left the Australian and American continents. Then Alessandro Di Benedetto will have to double Cape Horn famous for being a dangerous place; the passage will be an extremely difficult and above all tricky period ; especially with a "mini transat"!

During the crossing the communications with Alessandro will be done on the satellite phone IRIDIUM and the three ARGOS beacons will enable us to know precisely his position all along his voyage.

A few days before leaving Alessandro was very much excited. During his crossing of the Pacific Ocean he had already imagined his next adventure: *‘ ... I’ve often thought about sailing around the world as I was finishing my voyage through the Pacific , but with adrenalin within me I had been convinced that soon I was about to fulfill my new dream.’* In spite of the obvious risks with that project he is fulfilling Alessandro Di Benedetto seems rather calm and he is confident in his own capacities. *‘ I am fine, I know it will be difficult , but I also know that a good sailor must always find ways to come back. When I left for the crossing of the North Pacific Ocean, Japanese people told me this: ‘ Alessandro we hope you will have the courage to come back in case the Ocean doesn’t leave you sail.’ These words strenghtened me and stayed engraved in my memory’*

Findomestic Banca is small but I will take care of her, fully aware my life depends on her’

Special thanks to **FINDOMESTIC BANCA**, my main sponsor on that project, a sponsor that has helped a lot of sportsmen for years , with passion, determination and has made sacrifices always heading for ambitious and stimulating goals.

You will be able to follow Alessandro Di Benedetto’s voyage if you get connected either to his site: www.alessandrodibenedetto.net or to the official site that Findomestic Banca dedicated to him: www.adibenedetto.findomestic.it

Next Monday afternoon there will be the first radio connection with the editorial staff of Caterpillar, on the waves of Radio 2 (in Italian !)

