



Media Information
3rd April 2018

**Non-stop around the world with BMW technology:
BMW supports „round-the-world“ record sailor Boris Herrmann
on the first German Vendée Globe campaign.**

- Hamburg's „round-the-world“ record sailor, Boris Herrmann, set to become the first German to take part in the toughest regatta in the world.
- Foiling yacht “Malizia” to be optimised with BMW technology for the non-stop solo race around the world.
- Latest generation of Open 60 yacht ready for a record attempt on the Mediterranean with team partner BMW.

Lorient/Munich. For the first time in history, a German sailor is set to take on one of the biggest and toughest challenges in competitive sailing: the Vendée Globe. Hamburg's Boris Herrmann has his sights set on competing in the next edition of the solo regatta, which takes place in November 2020 and sees competitors sail non-stop around the world on the Southern Ocean. Team partner for the campaign is fellow sailor Pierre Casiraghi, founder of the Malizia team, which competes for the Yacht Club de Monaco (YCM). BMW is on board as team partner, bringing with it the company's expertise in automotive manufacturing and its experience of technology transfer in competitive sailing.

BMW has been involved in the America's Cup since 2002, and won the most coveted trophy in sailing with BMW ORACLE Racing in 2010. Over the coming year, the foiling Open 60 yacht “Malizia” will be optimised for the toughest solo race in the world. The team and BMW development engineers have together identified areas in which the automotive group can provide support, for example with its expertise in lightweight design and electric drives.

“Pierre Casiraghi and Boris Herrmann's Team Malizia campaign is a very ambitious project which will push man and equipment to their absolute limits,” said Sven Schuwirth, Head of BMW Brand. “BMW loves this kind of challenge, which allows us to demonstrate our pioneering and innovative spirit. We look



forward to supporting the team and, above all, skipper Boris Herrmann as the first German to take part in the Vendée Globe, and to preparing the racing yacht as effectively as possible for a successful around the world race using our technological expertise and the experience gained over the course of four America's Cup campaigns."

Herrmann will contest the Vendée Globe with an offshore racing yacht from the IMOCA class. The "Malizia" is one of the latest generation of Open 60 boats and is equipped with L-shaped foils, which can lift the yacht partly out of the water, making it far faster than previous designs. In March, following initial modifications, Herrmann transferred the yacht, which was built in 2015, from the shipyard in Lorient/Brittany to the Mediterranean. It is now at its home yacht club in Monaco, where it is undergoing further modification for the regattas ahead.

"I am very proud to have BMW on board. We have a big task ahead of us. Among sailors, the Vendée Globe is regarded as the Mount Everest of our sport," said Herrmann. "BMW is not only a fantastic brand but, as technology partner in the America's Cup, has also emphatically demonstrated over the past fifteen years that it knows how to optimise racing yachts, even at the very limit. We are very happy to be able to call on this engineering expertise for our campaign."

The "Malizia" sails under the flag of the Yacht Club de Monaco (YCM). Vice President of the YCM, Pierre Casiraghi, is the youngest son of Princess Caroline of Monaco, sails regularly with Herrmann, and is supporting him on the Vendée campaign. Among other things, he will race alongside the German at various Open 60 double-handed regattas. Wind permitting, the duo's first race outing in 2018 will be next week's record attempt on the Mediterranean from Marseille (FRA) to Carthage (TUN). Last year, Herrmann and Casiraghi finished an excellent third in the iconic Rolex Fastnet Race.

"The campaign is now picking up pace this season, and the partnership with BMW has given us another boost," said Casiraghi. "I am really looking forward to working with such a renowned and innovative company as BMW. Together, we can achieve our ambitious goals."

More details on the BMW technology transfer will be released in April at a media event at the Real Club Nautico de Palma (Palme de Mallorca).



Media Contact.

BMW Sports Communications

Nicole Stempinsky

Phone: +49 (0)89 – 382 51584

Email: Nicole.Stempinsky@bmw.de

Media Website.

www.press.bmwgroup.com/global

BMW Yachtsport on the web.

Website: www.bmw-yachtsport.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bmwgroupsports

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bmwyachtsport

Instagram: www.instagram.com/bmw_yachtsport