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World Class Trimmer Joins ORACLE BMW Racing

America's Cup champion Ross Halcrow strengthens sailing team

San Francisco/Munich, September 10, 2003 ...With the addition America's Cup winner Ross Halcrow, team ORACLE BMW Racing's sailing crew now has even more experienced winners in its ranks. Halcrow is considered one of the world's best sail trimmers and was part of the Team New Zealand crew which made history in winning the America's Cup in San Diego in 1995. The 36-year old Halcrow, born in New Zealand and residing in Canada, furthered his sailing reputation when he was part of the illbruck Challenge crew which won the 2002-03 Volvo Ocean Race. ORACLE BMW Racing CEO Chris Dickson says the addition of Halcrow to the sailing crew strengthens the team on and off the water. "Ross Halcrow is one of the world's best trimmers and brings a lot of expertise to that area of the race boat. He will also play an important role in our sail program," Dickson said.

Halcrow says joining ORACLE BMW Racing is a great opportunity to work with a team with the potential to win the 2007 America's Cup. "That's the bottom line. I didn't want to join a team for the sake of joining a team - I want to win the America's Cup again," he said. "I believe ORACLE BMW Racing has the assets and a good structure and I'm looking forward to being involved with the strategic planning for the team."

Halcrow has been involved in the America's Cup for 16 years, beginning as a sailmaker for the original New Zealand Challenge with Chris Dickson in 1987. He then sailed for New Zealand in 1992, Team New Zealand in 1995, and Young America in 2000. He has sailed in three round-the-world races and has five world titles to his name, including the world matchracing championship. He has also been part of a victorious Admiral's Cup team. But he can't wait to be part of an America's Cup syndicate again. "I love sailing these America's Cup boats and being involved with the sail design. Today, that means

being involved with the whole process - sails, the rig, the balance of the boat and boat design," Halcrow said. As trimmer and sail program manager on board illbruck, Halcrow worked closely with skipper John Kostecki, who has also recently joined the ORACLE BMW Racing team as tactician.

"Both Ross and John are world-class sailors in their respective roles and I have a lot of respect for them. They work separately but over the years they have forged a strong understanding between them," Dickson says. Halcrow says he is looking forward to sailing with Dickson for the first time and continuing his sailing relationship with Kostecki at ORACLE BMW Racing. "We decided that we would sail in the next America's Cup together because we enjoy working together and off-set each other pretty well," Halcrow added. Halcrow will sail on board ORACLE BMW Racing in the Moët Cup, the rematch of the 2003 Louis Vuitton Cup final against Alinghi in San Francisco later this September.

For further information about ORACLE BMW Racing, please visit:

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