

AMERICA'S CUP®

10 AC45s will take to Plymouth Sound in race for the America's Cup

Today (Wednesday, June 15, 2011) the field of international competitors who will race in Plymouth as part of the America's Cup World Series have revealed their game plans for winning the prestigious trophy.

Teams representing China, France (with two teams), Italy, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sweden and USA were unveiled ahead of the inaugural America's Cup World Series in Cascais, Portugal in August. The second stop on the circuit is Plymouth from 10-18 September, which will see the trophy on home soil for the first time in its 160 year history.

The City Council announced its role as a host city in April 2011 and has since been gearing up for what promises to be a truly sensational international event, where the eyes of the world will be firmly upon Plymouth.

Leader of Plymouth City Council, Councillor Vivien Pengelly said: "The excitement really is building in Plymouth as the city prepares to welcome thousands of visitors and the international America's Cup teams. This is one of the top sporting events in the world and the week long regatta will be packed full of amazing racing with the catamarans out in Plymouth Sound, the teams have already been demonstrating just how dramatic the sailing can be with their training in San Francisco. There will also be lots of entertainment on the Hoe and we're going to be showing everyone what a truly vibrant, waterfront city Plymouth is."

Plymouth is taking a real partnership approach to delivering the America's Cup event, which expects to attract over 500,000 visitors from across the UK and the world to the city. The Council has engaged numerous partners across the public and private sector which have offered their support and are taking advantage of the opportunities this kind of event offers.

Professor Wendy Purcell, Vice-Chancellor at Plymouth University, said: "We are delighted to be a key partner involved in hosting this prestigious international sporting event. Using our graduation marquees on the Hoe to help stage the event will really showcase what Plymouth has to offer. Our strong marine



AMERICA'S CUP®

and maritime heritage and the University's world class standing in research and innovation will create opportunities to share in and benefit from partnering with the America's Cup."

Leading city businessman **Dave Young, MD of the Una Group**, is leading the private sector's response and involvement with the America's Cup as Chairman of a Task and Finish Group set up by the Council. Mr Young said: "The quality of the teams confirmed today add to the quality and significance of the event itself. The America's Cup regatta in Plymouth presents great opportunities for businesses across a range of sectors to grasp."

Speaking of the international line up, **Ian Murray, Regatta Director for the 34th America's Cup and CEO of America's Cup Race Management** said: "This field of competitors is truly global, representing a mix of established teams as well as new ones in sailing's top event. The new vision for the America's Cup has created the opportunity for teams from Asia, Europe, Oceania and North America to enter the Cup and compete in dynamic, new, wing-sailed catamarans, in an exciting race format."

Among the challenging nations, Republic of Korea is new to the America's Cup, while China is entering for just the second time.

The inaugural AC World Series competition will be held August 6 – 14 in Cascais, Portugal. The second stop on the circuit will be Plymouth, England on September 10-18, followed by the final stop in 2011 in San Diego.

COMMENTS FROM THE TEAMS:

The competitors for the 34th America's Cup are (nation, team, yacht club)*:

China – China Team, Mei Fan Yacht Club

France – Aleph – Équipe De France, Aleph Yacht Club

France – Energy Team, Yacht Club de France

Italy – Venezia Challenge, Club Canottieri Roggero di Lauria

New Zealand – Emirates Team New Zealand, Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron

Republic of Korea – Team Korea, Sail Korea Yacht Club

Sweden – Artemis Racing, Kungliga Svenska Segel Sällskapet

United States – ORACLE Racing, Golden Gate Yacht Club, (Defender)

* The Ninth confirmed Team will be announced at a press conference June 23 in Europe



AMERICA'S CUP®

As they said it, quotes from the teams:

China Team, Wang Chaoyong, Team Principal: China Team is a true Chinese challenger as it will be powered by mainly Chinese sailors on a China-built boat. We are currently actively recruiting the Chinese sailors through a series of training camps all over China, and at the same time, our existing team is training with Olympic multihull medalists on the China Team AC45 boat to ensure that we are ready to compete in the first World Series in August. China Team truly represents the spirit of sports in China; while sailing is still a relatively new sport in China, we will be ready to compete against the best sailing teams in the world for the most prestigious sailing sports trophy.

ALEPH – Équipe De France, Philippe Ligot, CEO: Aleph is proud to continue France's heritage in sailing's pinnacle event the America's Cup. The America's Cup is a great contest of design and sailing skill. The new boats and format promise to transform a magnificent event into an even more exciting competition. Aleph looks forward to racing here in San Francisco.

Energy Team, Bruno Peyron, General Manager: Energy Team comes to the America's Cup with great experience in world-class multihull racing. With this new format, we see an exciting opportunity to excel in the America's Cup. The French public are huge fans of multihull racing so this move to new, dynamic boats will be great for the French sailing audience. And I have no doubt that the passion the French have for fast multihulls will be shared globally once people see these teams racing.

Venezia Challenge, Dario Valenza, Operations Manager: This new formula is very exciting, it is a great format able to attract sponsors and audience. Venezia Challenge will plan mobile campaigns using TV and radio in Italy and organize a Village in the most important cities to involve the mass market not just sailing fans. Technically it is a new level playing field, the boats are exciting, the format ensures close racing and expenditure is kept under control by limiting the available design led performance advantage and putting the emphasis on the sailing. Our team is coming together well and is looking like a formidable lineup, an exciting mix of people who are a pleasure to work with.

Emirates Team New Zealand, Kevin Shoebridge, COO: Emirates Team New Zealand, twice winner of the America's Cup, is working through the multiple challenges presented by the radical changes in boat and format. The team is happy with the venue but recognizes that translating the vision to reality will require a massive effort by all involved.

Team Korea, Kim Dong-Young, Team Principal: We are very proud to represent South Korea's first-ever Challenge for the America's Cup. With a new boat and new format, South Korea can enter the America's Cup for the first time with a better chance of success. We look forward to building our team and racing the AC45s starting in Portugal.



www.americascup.com



media@americascup.com



facebook.com/34thAC



twitter.com/34thAC



youtube.com/user/34thAC

AMERICA'S CUP®

Artemis Racing, Terry Hutchinson, Helmsman: The AC45 is a high performance, powerful boat which also maneuvers well in close situations. The wing definitely adds to the performance of the AC45 and when combined with the rest of the technology onboard, it's certainly a step ahead in multihull sailing. The racing promises to be close and action-packed, as well as demanding for the five crew on board. Likewise, as sailors, we need to be flexible, agile and physically fit, ready for just about anything that the short courses will present.

ORACLE Racing, Russell Coutts, CEO: These boats, and the bigger AC72s, aim to test the best sailors in the world. It's about pushing boundaries and gaining confidence so that your team is sharper than the next. It could be the difference between winning and losing.

About the America's Cup

Nearly 160 years old, the America's Cup is the oldest trophy in international sport. The America's Cup has evolved into one of the world's leading sporting competitions – featuring the best sailors on the world's fastest boats, the wing-sailed AC45 and AC72 catamarans. The new America's Cup World Series begins its inaugural season August 2011. In the summer of 2013, the 34th America's Cup begins with the Louis Vuitton Cup July 13- September 1, followed by the America's Cup Finals September 7-22. For more information, visit www.americascup.com

About the Louis Vuitton Cup

To compete for the America's Cup trophy, one must first win the Louis Vuitton Cup. The Louis Vuitton Cup is the America's Cup Challenger series, whose winner earns the right to compete in the America's Cup Finals. Established in 1983, the Louis Vuitton Cup has been held whenever there has been more than one challenger team for the America's Cup. Its role is twofold - to select the best challenger team, and to prepare the winner for success against the Defender in the following America's Cup Finals. For more information, visit www.americascup.com/louis-vuitton-cup

#

Contact:

For details of the America's Cup World Series event in Plymouth please contact:

Jenny Bishop

DCA Public Relations

01208 77900/ m. 07875 719217

Jenny.bishop@dca-pr.co.uk

For details on the America's Cup please contact:

Stephanie Martin

Stephanie.martin@americascup.com

+1.949.395.4523



www.americascup.com



media@americascup.com



facebook.com/34thAC



twitter.com/34thAC



youtube.com/user/34thAC