



Saturday, 5th September 2009

**Alain Thébault and Thierry Lombard's *Hydroptère*: the fastest sailing boat on the planet
51.36 knots, the new absolute speed record over 500 meters***

Yesterday *l'Hydroptère* established the new absolute sailing speed record over 500 meters in Hyères harbour (subject to ratification from the WSSRC).

By a 28-knot west wind, Alain Thébault and his crew took full advantage of the flying trimaran's potential and earned the title of the fastest sailing craft on the planet*. With a top speed of 55.5 knots (103 km/h) and an average speed of 51.36 knots, today *l'Hydroptère* takes her place in the history of sailing.

After the attempts in 2008, only one day in 2009 was enough for Alain Thébault and his crew, Anders Bringdal, Jean-Mathieu Bourgeon, François Cazala, Damien Colegrave, Stéphane Dyen, Matt Hodgson, Jérémie Lagarrigue, Pierre Trémouille, Gérard Navarin and Jacques Vincent to fine-tune *l'Hydroptère* and beat this record.

"Today the crew was just majestic for this fantastic record, the true representation of a collective work, an "hydropterian" team very close and determined. The accelerations at over 100 km/h (top speed at 55.5 knots) create intense sensations on board that we have never experienced before. Alain Thébault concludes this first day of trials with the famous sentence from Yoda in Star Wars: "There is no try... It's do or do not!" Today we did it!"

*"We should not forget that this record is above all a technological adventure and a team work which could not have been possible without the support of our partners", adds Alain Thébault. "It is, indeed, thanks to my partnership with Thierry Lombard, Managing Partner of Lombard Odier, private bankers since 1796 (whose foundation year is displayed on the mainsail), that *l'Hydroptère* has had the support of a "principal partner" since 2005 and that we started the quest for these records and we could beat them."*

Thierry Lombard is also at the origin of the partnership with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL). The Swiss institute brings its support in high-tech matters such as aerodynamics, composite materials, structural behaviour and video-imaging.



PRESS RELEASE

Today "Official Scientific Adviser for *l'Hydroptère*", the EPFL puts the knowledge of its professors and students, its creativity and calculation power at the flying trimaran's disposal.

After this tremendous success, *l'Hydroptère* team is already dreaming of new projects. Sailing at the helm of the boat configured as before for open seas and taking on long distance records is clearly the team's most immediate challenge. Thus *l'Hydroptère* is the only sailing boat capable of beating the absolute sailing speed record and of sailing in open seas.

At this moment, the new laboratory model is being built. *l'Hydroptère.ch*, an experimental platform that will "fly" over Lake Geneva, will be launched in Spring 2010 and will help developing *l'Hydroptère* maxi which will circumnavigate the globe.

Three boats to challenge the different oceanic records: the Atlantic, Pacific and around-the-world.

*Subject to ratification from the World Sailing Speed Record Council

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