

Volvo Ocean Race boats hit new peaks with Gottifredi Maffioli running rigging

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Gottifredi Maffioli, the world's leader in manufacturing high performance cordage and the official supplier of running rigging for the Volvo Ocean Race 2014-15, is another big reason why the new one-design Volvo Ocean 65 class has been praised for its reliability after the opening leg from Alicante, Spain to Cape Town.

"It is a source of great pride for us to be selected as the sole rope supplier of the whole fleet participating to the Volvo Ocean Race," said Pier Angelo Maffioli, managing director of Gottifredi Maffioli.

"This is undoubtedly one the most extreme sports endeavours, a real human adventure and at the same time a great technological challenge for all the materials and the equipment involved. We can consider it the K2 of ocean sailing, arguably the world's hardest mountain to climb, something that only the bravest can even think to challenge."

That's why Gottifredi Maffioli has put all its effort and knowledge into developing a state-of-the-art running rigging package which will assure all the necessary performance and reliability the seven teams will need to excel in this extraordinary adventure, sailing 38,739 nautical miles around the world over nine months.

"Using an automotive analogy, the function of running rigging on board can be considered as important as tyres are for a racing car. Ropes transfer the sail power to the boat and sailors rely on them to trim and control the sails. They need to be very strong but still be flexible and lightweight. Most of all, they need to be extremely durable and tough to withstand the harsh conditions of the world's toughest race," comments Luigi Maffioli, technical director of the Italian rope making company.

Nick Bice, Head of the Volvo Ocean Race Boatyard, believes that Gottifredi Maffioli's experience in not only the Volvo Ocean Race, but many other grand prix racing events, has led to their product standing out in both reliability and performance for this edition of the Volvo Ocean Race.

Over 3,000 metres of ropes are needed to rig a Volvo Ocean 65 and every line has been specifically designed for its application, to offer the necessary performance and best usage feeling to the sailors.

To ensure these are tough enough for their purpose, all their core elements are made of Dyneema®, the world's strongest fibre, which is 15 times stronger than steel on a weight-for-weight basis and is so light that it can float in water.

The extensive lineup of Gottifredi Maffioli high performance Dyneema® lines will be on display from today at METS (the Marine Equipment Trade Show) which is taking place in Amsterdam from November 18th to 20th as well as being ready to set sail again tomorrow, November 19th, as the Volvo Ocean Race fleet leaves Cape Town on Leg 2 to Abu Dhabi.

About Gottifredi Maffioli

Gottifredi Maffioli is an Italian ropes manufacturer founded in 1926 in Novara, Italy. Since the beginning of its activity, Gottifredi Maffioli has committed itself to offering its customers the best available material and productive technologies. In 1954 Gottifredi Maffioli realized for the first time in history a climbing rope made of Nylon: a very important rope indeed, as it was used for the first expedition that conquered the K2, the most challenging and feared mountain in the world. Since then, the massive shape of K2 appears in the Gottifredi Maffioli logo to celebrate the success of that memorable expedition. In 1983, Gottifredi Maffioli moved its first step in the yachting world: providing the ropes of Azzurra, the first Italian team challenging the America's Cup. From that time on Gottifredi Maffioli has become a world leader in the production of high quality yachting lines, supplying the majority of the world's most celebrated sailing teams.

To learn more about Gottifredi Maffioli please visit our website at www.gottifredimaffioli.com and follow us on our social media channels:

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For more information on the Volvo Ocean Race please visit: www.volvooceanrace.com

Editors' Notes

- ⊗ The next edition of the Volvo Ocean Race will be the 12th running of the 40-year-old event, which started in 1973 as the Whitbread Round the World Race.
- ⊗ The race started on October 4th 2014, day of the first In-Port Race in Alicante, Spain, and finish with one last In-Port Race on June 27, 2015 in Gothenburg, Sweden. The 38,739-nautical mile route will also include stopovers in Cape Town (South Africa), Abu Dhabi (UAE), Sanya (China), Auckland (New Zealand), Itajaí (Brazil), Newport, Rhode Island (USA), Lisbon (Portugal) and Lorient (France). A 24-hour pit-stop in The Hague is scheduled between France and Sweden.
- ⊗ The next two editions will be contested in a new high-performance boat, the Volvo Ocean 65, designed by Farr Yacht Design in the United States and built by a consortium of boatyards in the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Switzerland.
- ⊗ The new 65-foot (19.8-metre) monohull racing yachts will be strictly One Design and delivered "ready to sail" for the next two editions of the Volvo Ocean Race. The boats incorporate the latest video, satellite and content production facilities to further enhance the Onboard Reporter programme that has been in place since 2008-09.
- ⊗ The previous Volvo Ocean Race started in October 2011 in Alicante and was won by Groupama sailing team, skippered by Frenchman Franck Cammas, in July 2012. Gottifredi Maffioli supplied all the ropes used by the team.
- ⊗ Dyneema® is a registered trademark of Royal DSM N.V..