



Press Release

SkySails launches kite drive for yachts

Propulsion system demonstrates impressive performance during maiden voyage on zero-emission hybrid catamaran "Race for Water"

Hamburg/Germany, Lorient/France, Madeira/Portugal, April 21st, 2017. The zero-emission catamaran "Race for Water" has reached Madeira finishing the first leg on its journey across the Atlantic. The first of its kind yacht has been utilizing the innovative kite wind propulsion system developed by SkySails Yacht GmbH of Hamburg/Germany throughout the voyage.

The SkySails system was installed on "Race for Water" at the start of April prior to its departure from Lorient/France making the vessel the first kite-powered wind/solar hybrid yacht in history. The SkySails drive has demonstrated remarkably impressive performance on its maiden voyage. Under ideal conditions the kite measuring only 40m² accelerates the 35m 100 tons yacht to a speed of up to 8 knots using only the power of wind. Captain Jean-Marc Normant: "We are extremely happy with the performance and easy handling of the automated system."

"Race for Water", built at the Knieriem shipyards in Kiel/Germany in 2010 and formerly known as "Planet Solar" became famous for circumnavigating the globe powered exclusively by a solar electric drive. The catamaran now forms the heart of the "Race for Water" foundation which is dedicated to raising the public's awareness of plastics pollution and educating it on preventing further environmental damage and pollution (for more information visit www.raceforwater.com). The kite system ideally supplements the self-sufficient propulsion system on board the vessel and supports the Race for Water Odyssey of circumnavigating the earth in the most eco-friendly and sustainable way possible. The yacht is driven by solar, hydrogen and now by wind power as well.

"Race for Water's" first stopover on its 5-year circumnavigation odyssey will be Bermuda at the end of May where it will be a guest at the Louis Vuitton Cup and the America's Cup. The kite drive will be showcased during "open ship" days. The Race for Water Odyssey is the starting point for SkySails Yacht GmbH to demonstrate how critically important it is to reimagine propulsion systems not only in commercial shipping but also in the superyacht business in order to save fuel, reduce emissions and highlight the owners' concern for the environment.

The SkySails system for yachts originates from the renowned SkySails propulsion system for cargo vessels and has been adapted and refined for use on yachts. It is available for 15m+ yachts and superyachts and is designed to reduce fuel consumption, extend the vessel's range, provide stable cruising comfort, enhance reliability and deliver environmentally compatible performance. Motoryachts in the 30 to 40m class with a limited range will now be able to cross the oceans under kite instead of being deckloaded on a freighter.

Further information on SkySails for yachts: www.skysails-yacht.com

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About SkySails Yacht GmbH

SkySails Yacht GmbH is the market and technology leader in the field of automated towing kite systems for yachts.

The company draws upon 15 years of experience of its parent company SkySails Group GmbH which is renowned for its innovative towing kite wind propulsion system for cargo vessels. It is the first company in the world that has succeeded to develop kite technology as an industrial application with kites as large as 400m² delivering up to 2,000kW of propulsion power (for more information please visit www.skysails.com).

The SkySails technology is patented worldwide and the company has a strong international network of strategic partners.

Media Contact:

SkySails Yacht GmbH

Sven Klingenberg
Luisenweg 40
20537 Hamburg
Germany

Phone: +49 40 702 99 301

Email: press@skysails.com

Internet: www.skysails-yacht.com