



Press release - Bretagne Sailing Valley® shines on the podium of the Vendée Globe

After 80 days of racing, full of emotion and twists and turns, Yannick Bestaven, Charlie Dalin and Louis Burton are the first skippers of the 9th Vendée Globe who arrived in Les Sables d'Olonne (Vendée) last thursday night. By reaching the podium, all three of these sailors are now promoting the technologies developed in Bretagne Sailing Valley®. Designed, built and partly equipped by companies based in Brittany and supported by the Eurolarge Innovation program, these 3 winning boats were able to withstand all storms.

The 2020 Vendée Globe will have kept all its promises! Emotion, sporting commitment and a finish full of suspense. In this very special context linked to the pandemic, the Vendée Globe opened a window on the world beyond the oceans and made us dream for 80 days.

The "made in Bretagne Sailing Valley®" at the finish of the Vendée Globe

This mythical race, also called the Everest of the Seas, is a formidable technological and a sport challenge.

The podium of this edition demonstrates once again the Breton savoir-faire. The first 3 boats were all designed, manufactured and partly equipped by companies based in Brittany. Yannick Bestaven's boat (Maître Coq IV), sold by Roland Jourdain, is first in the general classification of the race.

Apivia, Charlie Dalin's new generation boat Apivia crossed the finish line of the Vendée Globe first.

Finally, the Malouin Louis Burton on Bureau Vallée 2 also contributes to the influence of Bretagne Sailing Valley® with a boat that has won twice, since it is the boat on which Armel Le Cléac'h won the 2016-2017 Vendée Globe.

Ranking	Boats / Teams	Skippers	Architects	Builders
1	Maître Coq IV (foil)	Yannick Bestaven	Verdier - VPLP	CDK Technologies (France)
2	Apivia (nouvelle génération + foil)	Charlie Dalin	Verdier	CDK technologies – Mer Concept (France)
3	Bureau Vallée 2 (foil)	Louis Burton	Verdier - VPLP	CDK Technologies (France)

Highlighted in blue above: the teams based in Brittany, the skippers from Brittany, the architects and builders based in Brittany.

As a reminder, of the 33 boats to set off on the “Everest of the Seas”:

- 18 (nearly 55%) were designed in Brittany, including 5 out of the 8 new-generation boats,
- 16 (more than 50%) were built in the region, including 5 out of the 8 new-generation boats,
- And, as far as the skippers are concerned, whether born in the region or not, 20 (more than 60%) have set up with their team in the heart of Bretagne Sailing Valley®.

Bretagne Sailing Valley®: a unique ecosystem

The name, given to the technological sector of competitive sailing in Brittany, arose from the meeting of exceptional sailors, with demanding requirements and in search of performance from a responsive and innovative economy that has for a long time been turned towards the sea.

With more than **210 companies**, mainly SMEs, “the Breton hub brings together most of France’s offshore racing skills” and contains all the maritime skills in an integrated and comprehensive sector: architecture, structural design and boatbuilding, manufacture of rigging and appendages, safety equipment, on-board electronics, fittings, rigging, sail making, hull coverings, digital and information systems...

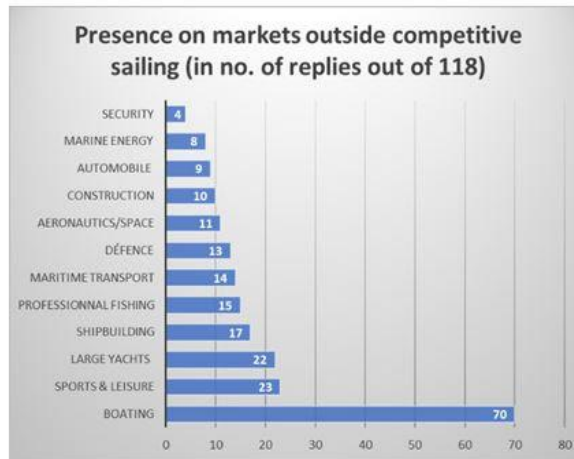
Often leaders in their markets, these companies are recognized around the world for their expertise and know-how. Constant cooperation between sailors, companies and research laboratories in the region, enables French skippers today to navigate on the most efficient boats in the world (Ultim, IMOCA, Figaro, Class 40, mini) and the Bretagne Sailing Valley is embarking in mythical competitive sailing races.

The Economic Weight of Competitive Sailing in Brittany

- **210 companies** (industry, trade and services) were identified
- Their businesses involve **28 different professions** (architecture and shipbuilding, IT, fittings, appendages, sail making, etc.)
- In 2019, these companies generated sales of 348 million euros, **of which an estimated 83.5 million euros exclusively in competition sailing** (estimated growth of 16% between 2018 and 2019)
- 2,355 employees work in this sector including **980** in competition.

Other business markets (panel of 118 enterprises)

The know-how and cutting-edge technologies used in competitive sailing serve as drivers of innovation in other sectors: nautical, aeronautical, naval, composite materials, defence, sail boats...



>> Source: Economic survey of businesses (2020)

Teams and Sports Projects

+200 teams and competitive sailing projects are based in Brittany (including 21 in IMOCA)

- Their overall annual operating budget excluding boat construction is estimated at **€58M**.
- 85% of this budget is spent in the region of Brittany.
- This activity generates **over 320 jobs, including about 120 temporary jobs**

>> Source: Additional study of racing teams (2018)

Business Support programme: EUROLARGE INNOVATION

Eurolarge Innovation is a support programme for organisations in the competitive sailing sector (companies, institutions and research centres) to support economic development and promote the influence of the regional sector. Funded and supported by the Region of Brittany and piloted by Bretagne Développement Innovation, the regional economic development agency, the scheme offers meetings and exchanges between stakeholders. It supports companies in their innovation, internationalisation, and diversification projects. Finally, it contributes to developing skills by organizing regular technical days. "Our goal is to compile the skills needed to meet the challenges of the sector, such as the emergence of sustainable innovations, opening up to international markets and transfer of technologies to other industrial sectors," Carole Bourlon, head of the Eurolarge Innovation programme, based in Lorient.

HD Pictures here

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