



CHAMPAGNE

POL ROGER

iDroptere

Alain Thébault and Anders Bringdal are set to fly the colours of Pol Roger, who have been named as the Official Champagne for their challenge to reach a record sailing speed of 80 knots (150 km/H).

Pol Roger is delighted to be appointed as 'Official Champagne of the *iDroptere*\* Challenge', following an earlier announcement of a partnership with Dassault Systèmes for the design and Monaco Marine for the assembly.

Alain Thébault and Anders Bringdal set the speed sailing world record in 2009 when they travelled at an average speed of more than 50 knots (95 km/H) over one nautical mile. Their current objective is to break the present sailing speed record of 65 knots, held by the Australian Paul Larsen aboard his Vestas Sailrocket prototype, with their new prototype, the *iDroptere*, and to exceed an 80 knots (150 km/H) average.

Champagne Pol Roger has been producing exceptional champagne for over 160 years. To this day the house remains small, fiercely independent and unrivalled in its reputation for quality; values synonymous with those of Alain Thébault and Anders Bringdal. Indeed, it is this quality which brought about Sir Winston Churchill's lifelong attachment to Pol Roger, who famously insisted «In defeat I need it, in victory I deserve it».

Founded in 1849, Pol Roger remains a family-owned business and exports 83% of its champagne overseas, notably to countries where the *Hydroptere*\*\*<sup>††</sup>, the first experimental deep-see hydrofoil trimaran built by Alain Thébault, embarked on its maiden voyage and was met with remarkable success. The *Hydroptere* drew acclaim in England for setting Cross Channel sailing records and in the Round the Island Race (Isle Of Wight), in Germany where it was celebrated during the greatest world nautical event, the "Kieler Woche", in Japan, in Australia where Anders Bringdal presented *iDroptere* earlier this year, in Sweden and of course the United-States where *Hydroptere* is currently based before setting sail to Hawaii for the Transpacific crossing.

\* *iDroptere* : asymmetric prototype constructed to set the world sailing speed record higher than an 80 knots average.

\*\* *Hydroptere* : first deep-see flying boat currently based in Los Angeles

Hubert de Billy, Alain Thébault, Anders Bringdal and Laurent d'Harcourt



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