



Fantastic Yoann Richomme, 2th of the Vendée Globe!

Yoann Richomme has just crossed the 2th position the finish line of the 10th edition of the Vendée Globe, with a lead of nine days on the previous Vendée Globe record. The skipper of Paprec offers a very nice second place to the French leader in recycling, a major European player in waste management, for its 6th participation in this “Everest of the seas”.

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The Paprec teams are particularly proud of their champion, Yoann Richomme, who, at the 6th Paprec's participation in the Vendée Globe gives him a second place in this legendary race. While it was Yoann's first participation in this non-stop and unassisted race. And his first round the world trip!

An anthology of hand-to-hand combat

And what a rank! This tenth edition was incredibly intense, Yoann crossed the finish line almost ten days ahead of Armel le Cléac'h's record!

A record broken thanks to the particularly innovative boats but also thanks to the tenacity and combativeness of the two champions Yoann Richomme and Charlie Dalin. Indeed, since the Cape of Good Hope, the two sailors have led a hand to hand at a hellish pace, relegating the rest of the fleet far behind them. A duel in reality started from the start, i.e. 65 days of naval battle!

The two sailors, at the height of their art, led this tenth edition of the "Everest of the seas" with the intensity of a Solitaire du Figaro, a race that the two sailors have already won several times. *"We are very proud of our champion! Yoann led this legendary race with talent, tenacity and a constant good mood that is beyond comprehension given the conditions of this race! To lead this kind of competition and know how to skillfully pilot these technological gems that are the Imoca, you have to be an exceptional man or woman. It is an incredible intellectual, physical and psychological challenge!"* Underlines Jean-Luc Petithuguenin, founder of Paprec.

"We are particularly pleased with this 2th place behind a magnificent champion, Charlie Dalin, whom we congratulate. This place marks our sixth participation in this essential event in ocean racing. We have implemented all possible means to achieve this result. A boat designed with the best architects of the moment, a dedicated stable and an exceptional sailor," rejoices Sébastien Petithuguenin, CEO of Paprec Energies. He continues: *"We will continue the adventure with Yoann Richomme for the next edition, hoping to do like Charlie Dalin or Armel le Cléac'h: win after a second place! »*

Paprec and sailing: 25 years of history

"Paprec is an important supporter of ocean racing because we share the values of this sport: tenacity, excellence and surpassing oneself, as well as the ability to lead innovative technological projects", recalls Sébastien Petithuguenin. Values that Paprec employees put every day at the service of their industrial clients and communities to find with them the best technological and environmental solutions to transform their waste into new materials or green energy.

Paprec and sailing, it's a 25-year love story! After his debut in the Tour de France à la Voile in 1999, Paprec met Jean-Pierre Dick. In 2004, he took the helm of the first Paprec boat to participate in the Vendée Globe. Named "Sailor of the Year" in 2011, he won many double-handed races under our colors: twice the Barcelona World Race and four times the Transat Jacques Vabre.

During four successive editions of this "Everest of the seas", the skipper will crisscross the oceans under the colors of Paprec. He will distinguish himself for his tenacity and resistance. Jean-Pierre actually finished 6th in 2005, had to retire due to serious damage in 2008 and narrowly missed the podium with a 4th place in the two following editions. During the previous edition, four years ago, Sébastien Simon, then skipper of Arkéa Paprec, had to abandon after boat damages... a skipper who should also be on the podium of this 10th Vendée.

A stable dedicated to ocean racing

After the last edition, Paprec is moving up another notch on the Imoca circuit by deciding to create its own racing team in partnership with Crédit Mutuel Arkéa, one of its major financial partners. This project is therefore set up with the sponsors at the forefront. Paprec and Arkéa form a joint venture, create a dedicated team and chose a skipper. Yoann Richomme, a rising star in ocean racing, thus joins the project with a distinguished sailor as a partner, Yann Eliès, for double-handed races and to replace him if necessary.

A promising skipper and an innovative ship

When he joined the Paprec Arkéa adventure, Yoann Richomme was already crowned with a double victory at La Solitaire du Figaro in 2016 and 2019 and a first place in Class40 at the Route du Rhum in 2018. He distinguished himself again upon his arrival under the colors of the recycling giant, winning the Route du Rhum for a second time in Class40 in 2022.

A new boat, an IMOCA, is then built with the Koch-Finot-Conq architectural firm. The skipper, who is also a naval architect, took part in the technical choices for this 60-foot racing boat. *"An offshore racing project is above all a project of innovation and technology, like in Formula 1. The architect and the skipper must design the best boat within a common gauge"*, explains Sébastien Petithuguenin, President of Paprec Energies.

Tenacity, excellence: shared values

The technical gamble quickly proved effective: Yoann won two of the first three solo transatlantic races he completed with this new boat. This record placed him among the favorites for this tenth edition of the Vendée Globe. Yoann confirmed this intuition by finishing second for his first participation in this non-stop, unassisted race. And his first round the world trip!

Paprec, a major player in competitive sailing

With eight major victories on the IMOCA circuit in 25 years and five participations in the Vendée Globe, including four alongside Jean-Pierre Dick. Paprec is one of the major players in sailing sponsorship. It has continued its adventure on the professional circuit in partnership with Arkea, with its skipper Yoann Richomme for three years. In twenty years, some of the biggest names in sailing have joined one or another of the Paprec projects, such as Yann Eliès, Loïck Peyron, etc.

At the same time, the group is taking part in the 52 Super Series in TP52, fielding a high-level amateur crew, successfully managed by Stéphane Névé, the group's skipper. After managing a Paprec factory in Quimper for ten years, Stéphane Névé devotes himself entirely to sailing for Paprec. His boat has been awarded ten times as the best Breton boat and won the Commodore's Cup in 2006 (national team race). A crew joined this year by Loïck Peyron as tactician.

A major player in the ocean racing circuits, Paprec has been the title partner of the Solitaire du Figaro, which has become the Solitaire du Figaro Paprec, since 2022. It is also the eponymous partner of the Transat Paprec, linking Concarneau to the island of Saint-Barthélemy. Paprec aims to allow everyone to access this sector of French excellence that is sailing. To do this, it created a double-handed event on the Solitaire du Figaro, the "Défi Paprec", which allows novices to try out this demanding race. The group was the driving force behind making the Transat Paprec the first mandatory mixed double-handed transatlantic race, in order to allow female sailors to gain experience in ocean racing.

About Paprec Group:

The group was founded by Jean-Luc Petithuguenin and has been run by the family ever since. The French leader in recycling, Paprec has now established itself as a major player in the production of green energy and waste treatment. In 30 years, it has grown from 45 to 16,000 employees spread across more than 350 sites in ten countries. The group manages 16 million tonnes and its turnover exceeds 3 billion euros in 2024.

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