

Ten-strong mixed crew to “fly the flags” for Danish-American sponsored Vestas 11th Hour Racing

Co-founders Charlie Enright and Mark Towill present a combination of vast race experience and fresh talent to represent Vestas 11th Hour Racing in the upcoming Volvo Ocean Race 2017-18

14th July 2017

With 100 days to go before the boats dock out of Alicante on Leg One of the 45,000 nautical-mile race around the world, the American duo announce a crew of ten males and females, including six nationalities.

The crew will give the team flexibility to best adjust capabilities for each leg and racing opportunity, allowing race newcomers to excel, whilst benefitting from the know-how of the more experienced members – between them, team members will have competed in the Volvo Ocean Race over 20 times, including six race wins.

“We’ve taken our time to get this right, and we couldn’t ask for a better group of sailors”, says Charlie Enright, Skipper and Co-Founder of the team. “There are 100 days left until the race kicks off, with some important team time along the way. I’m definitely satisfied that we’re in a good place with the sponsorship, positioning ourselves at the forefront of sustainability, and setting the team up with a solid chance of taking the crown.”

On the team line-up for the 2017-18 race are:

- Nick Dana; USA; Boat Captain
- Hannah Diamond; GBR; Crew
- Charlie Enright; USA; Skipper
- Simon Fisher; GBR; Navigator
- Damian Foxall; IRE; Crew
- Jena Mai Hansen; DEN; Crew
- Phil Harmer; AUS; Crew
- Tom Johnson; AUS; Crew
- Tony Mutter; NZL; Crew
- Mark Towill; USA; Team Director



Eight of the aforementioned crew have already joined the team offshore, having completed two Atlantic crossings in April and May. This includes Navigator and Volvo Ocean Race veteran, Simon Fisher.

"It's amazing to be back in the Volvo Ocean Race with some old acquaintances as well as inspiring new talent", says Fisher ("Si Fi"), a former race winner with Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing in 2014-15. "This time we're focusing on performance, as well as a sponsorship with an important message, backed by two partners, Vestas and 11th Hour Racing, fully committed to making a positive change. It's a privilege to be given the chance and the platform to share the message of sustainability and ocean health - I've dodged everything from telegraph poles to old fridge-freezers while at sea. We've got to act now, and as a group, this is what we aspire this campaign to be about".

For others, this will be their first round-the-world race. Danish Olympic medalist, Jena Mai Hansen, sailed with the team on the transatlantic trips from Lisbon (Portugal) to Newport (RI, USA) and back: "It was actually my first-ever full night at sea – an intimidating but amazing experience," remarks Hansen, who joins the UK's Hannah Diamond as one of two female sailors on board. "Helming a VO65 boat in the middle of the Atlantic in pitch dark, in 40 knots, is without a doubt one of the craziest things I've ever done. I'm hungry for more and excited to be part of a skilled, international team. Bring it on!"

The team are currently preparing to travel to the South of England for pre-race activation and Leg 0 commitments, lining up against other teams and boats for the first time at the Round-the-Island race during Cowes week, followed by the Rolex Fastnet Race, and finishing up in Lisbon via St. Malo in mid-August.

Stay tuned for more on each crew member coming soon, and don't forget to get involved with Vestas 11th Hour Racing, online and offline, above and below the surface.

Let's lead sustainability, together.

#LeadingSustainability through #WindandWater

www.Vestas11thHourRacing.com

Images: <http://bit.ly/Vestas11thHourRacingImages>

Contact:

Thomas John McMaw
Senior Project Manager
Campaigns and Communications
Vestas 11th Hour Racing
tjomc@vestas.com

Alessandra Ghezzi
Director of Communications
11th Hour Racing
aghezzi@team11thhourracing.com





About Vestas 11th Hour Racing

Led by Charlie Enright and Mark Towill, Vestas and 11th Hour Racing join forces to compete in the 2017-18 Volvo Ocean Race with one simple mission: Achieve exemplary results in sport and be the most sustainable team in the race. This is our opportunity to win the most epic sprint around our fragile planet, whilst showcasing business as a force for good. As experienced organisations and individuals, we understand the need to set a precedent whereby helping our partners and fans, accomplish their sustainable goals. We advocate for effective solutions for a clean atmosphere and marine habitat, harnessing the power of nature for a cleaner tomorrow, and using unparalleled knowledge to empower collaborative, systematic change for our environment. Let's lead sustainability, together.

About Vestas

Vestas is the energy industry's global partner on sustainable energy solutions. We design, manufacture, install, and service wind turbines across the globe, and with more than 83 GW of wind turbines in 75 countries, we have installed more wind power than anyone else. Through our industry-leading smart data capabilities and unparalleled more than 73 GW of wind turbines under service, we use data to interpret, forecast, and exploit wind resources and deliver best-in-class wind power solutions. Together with our customers, Vestas' more than 22,000 employees are bringing the world sustainable energy solutions to power a bright future. For more information, please visit www.vestas.com.

About 11th Hour Racing

11th Hour Racing, a program of The Schmidt Family Foundation, establishes strategic partnerships within the sailing and marine communities to promote collaborative systemic change for the health of our ocean, one degree at a time. 11th Hour Racing harnesses the power of sport to increase our understanding of the marine environments, find innovative solutions to the issues that impact these resources, and promote stewardship and sustainable use of the seas, collaborating with the international sailing community through three main areas of engagement: grants, sponsorships, and ambassadors. For more information, please visit www.11thhourracing.org.

About Volvo Ocean Race

The Volvo Ocean Race is the ultimate ocean marathon, pitting the sport's best sailors against each other across the world's toughest oceans. The legendary race that began in 1973 will start from Alicante, Spain in October 2017 and finish in The Hague, Netherlands in June 2018. Featuring almost three times as much Southern Ocean sailing as in the previous edition, the Volvo Ocean Race 2017-18 will be contested over the longest distance in the race's history at around 45,000 nautical miles, crossing four oceans and taking in 12 major cities on six continents.

The Volvo Ocean Race has been the global sponsorship flagship of Volvo Group and Volvo Car Group since taking ownership of the Race in 1999. The Volvo Ocean Race is operated as a non-profit organisation.