

Press release

'HUGO BOSS' sailing yacht will be ready to start the Vendée Globe after repairs

Metzingen, 27 October 2008. During preparations for the renowned Vendée Globe sailing race, in the early morning of 17 October 2008 the 'HUGO BOSS' sailing yacht was struck by a French fishing vessel off the French Atlantic coast near Les Sables d'Olonne. As a result of the collision it suffered severe damage to its hull and mast. Despite lighting and the activated radar of the racing boat the fishing vessel collided with the starboard side of the 'HUGO BOSS' and holed it. Due to the strong impact the 27 metre high mast also broke. Fortunately no one was seriously injured including skipper Alex Thomson and his team members.

After returning the boat into the harbour of Les Sables d'Olonne the members of the team and an expert team of boat architects, engineers and boat builders began to assess the damage. This revealed that the damaged parts of the boat can be repaired. Meanwhile further experts from around the world have been drafted in to make the yacht fit to race by the time the Vendée Globe starts on 9 November 2008.

In this race Alex Thomson will sail the 'HUGO BOSS' alone non-stop around the world. After the initial shock and disappointment about the accident, the British skipper is once again confident that the race will be successful.



The starting point and destination of the spectacular event is the West French Les Sables d'Olonne on the Atlantic coast. Exclusive items from the HUGO BOSS team collection are available to purchase from the Vendée Globe Race Village until the 9th November.

Further information on HUGO BOSS AG and our sponsoring activities can be found on our website at www.hugoboss.com.

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