



D'IeterenGroup

Press Pack

D'Ieteren Group Sailing

Denis Van Weynbergh



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Editorial

The D'leteren Group Sailing project is primarily a union between a family business and a Belgian entrepreneur with common values.

Quote from Denis:

Denis Van Weynbergh: "My team and I are especially pleased and honoured that a Belgian family group of international dimension has stepped up as our main partner. A Vendée Globe project is first and foremost an entrepreneurial endeavor. To make it to the starting line, we need to design a model that can first travel the distance on land. D'leteren Group makes us financially viable, which gives us the necessary peace of mind and confidence to achieve this goal."

Quote from D'leteren Group:

Conquered by both the project and the person carrying it, D'leteren Group views this partnership as an opportunity to champion the values it holds dear. **Nicolas D'leteren, President of D'leteren Group:** "We were impressed and convinced by Denis' human and professional qualities. His courage, perseverance and entrepreneurial spirit echo our Group's values. We are proud to support him throughout this adventure and we look forward to sharing this exciting project with all our people."

02

Skipper Denis Van Weynbergh and the listed family business D'Ieteren Group are joining forces to represent Belgium in the Vendée Globe 2024. Spanning a couple of years, this exciting and demanding sports challenge is much more than a simple competition, it is a human adventure punctuated by commitment.

His next challenge:

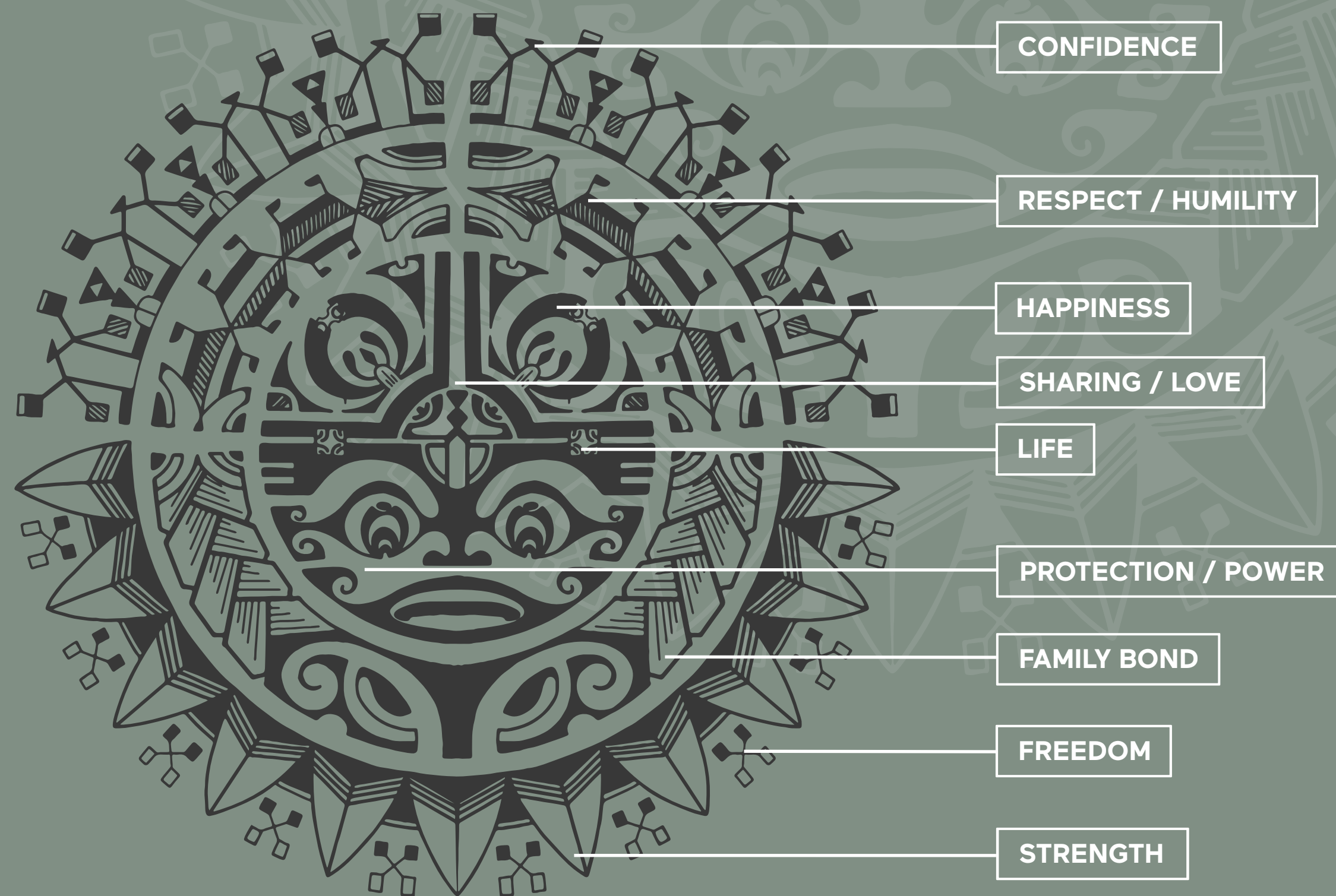
The legendary Vendée Globe, a non-stop, unassisted round the world race, starting and finishing in Les Sables d'Olonne. Considered to be the toughest yacht race in the world, to date no Belgian sailor has managed to complete it.

To pull off this challenge, Denis is pulling out all the stops in his preparation by signing up for all the events on the IMOCA60 schedule in 2023 and 2024 to rack up the miles needed to qualify. The races include the Transat Jacques Vabre, Retour à La Base, The Transat CIC and the New-York Vendée.

The project



Values



D'Ieteren Group Sailing's programme: strong sporting and societal commitment

Through D'Ieteren Group Sailing's programme, D'Ieteren Group and sailor Denis Van Weynbergh, intend to think outside the box with sport by championing values that are dear to their hearts, including courage and entrepreneurship. Together, they are eager to have a positive impact on the world and defend environmental and societal causes. At the helm of the IMOCA D'Ieteren Group, Denis Van Weynbergh will be the dedicated spokesperson for the Belgian group all around the globe.

Access to a simulating and fulfilling professional life:

As a family business and a family of businesses, the spirit of entrepreneur- ship and innovation is integral to the group and is carried out through all its activities. Moreover, the Group's mission is to build a family of businesses that reinvent industries in search of excellence and meaningful impact. With this in mind, D'Ieteren Group aims to support courageous, bold and creative people to enable them to realise their professional dream and, have a positive impact on society. In this way, Denis will be the spokesperson for these entre-preneurs. Given that a Vendée Globe project is primarily an entrepreneurial experience, he will give an account of his own journey, share his experience and encourage those focused on societal projects to continue their entrepreneurial adventure, circumnavigating the storms and pitfalls.



02. The project

The races:

Transat Jacques Vabre 29.10.2023

Le Havre - Martinique double-handed with Gilles BUEKENHOUT

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the legendary Coffee Route is setting out to discover the West Indies. An exceptional line-up comprising 95 sailor duos split into 4 classes and 4 courses, who will compete in this demanding transatlantic race.

Retour à la Base 26.11.2023

Martinique - Lorient single-handed

The first major challenge on the programme to set sail from Martinique single-handed is selective and serves as a qualifier for the Vendée Globe 2024-2025.

The Transat CIC 28.04.2024

Lorient - Etats Unis single-handed

The oldest of the single-handed races, The Transat was created in 1960 by a handful of British sailors keen to find out if they were capable of crossing the Atlantic single-handed.

New York - Vendée 29.05.2024

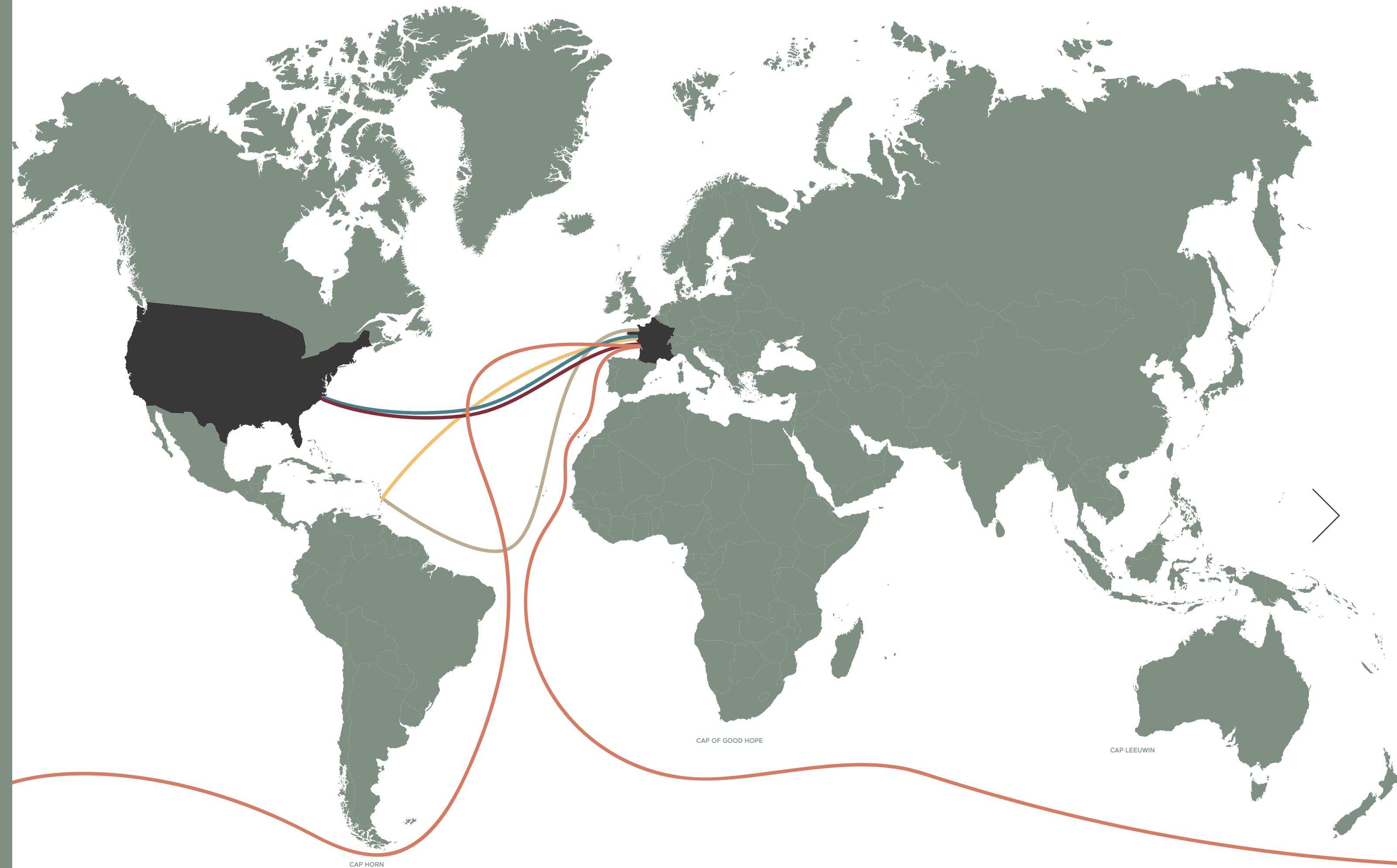
New-York - Les Sables d'Olonne single-handed

The last race to qualify for the Vendée Globe, this event is a proper dress rehearsal prior to the start of the solo round the world race six months later.

Vendée Globe 10.11.2024

Les Sables d'Olonne single-handed

Non-stop, unassisted, single-handed round the world race via the three capes. Denis will strive to be the first Belgian skipper to finish this the holy grail for single-handed sailors.



● Transat Jacques Vabre
Le Havre - La Martinique

● Retour à la Base
Martinique - Lorient

● The Transat CIC
Lorient - Etats Unis

● New York - Vendée
New-York - Les Sables d'Olonne

● Vendée Globe
Les Sables d'Olonne

Denis' portrait

Denis Van Weynbergh got his first taste of offshore racing at an early age and has been passionate about it ever since. As a cruising instructor turned into a professional sailor, he's spent the past 20 years competing in the most prestigious Atlantic races (Route du Rhum, Transat Jacques Vabre, Mini Transat...). Today, with D'Ieteren Group, he has set his sights even higher: he wants to be the first Belgian to complete the Vendée Globe.

Graduating from the French school of political science in 1992, with a degree in journalism in 2007, Denis cuts his teeth as a sailing and cruising instructor at the UCPA. Very soon, his marine activities span the competition domain, leading to his participation in the Mini Transat in 2001. **An entrepreneur at heart,** the following year he acquires the company, 'PN Express Worldwide', an SME specialising in the national and international distribution of express mail and parcels in Belgium. From there, **he turns his hand to journalism between 2006 and 2007.** A real enthusiast, he combines his job and the marine universe, specialising as a marine journalist for Belgium's printed press, radio and even television. **A Mini sailor first off, in 2001, he then hits the competition circuit as an amateur Class40 sailor and lines up for some of the most prestigious races,** including the Route du Rhum 2010, the Transat Quebec Saint-Malo 2012, the Transat Jacques Vabre 2013 and the Rolex Fastnet Race 2015. Having racked up considerable experience, **Denis decides to become a professional skipper in 2018.**

Setting his sights ever higher, Denis joins the IMOCA60 circuit with a view to the Vendée Globe 2020: a non-stop, unassisted, single-handed round the world race, setting sail from and returning to Les Sables d'Olonne on France's Atlantic coast. Considered to be the toughest yacht race in the world and often labelled the Everest of the Seas, to date no Belgian sailor has ever completed it. **In 2021, he joins the prestigious IMOCA60 class** and competes in some renowned races like the Transat Jacques Vabre, the Bermudes 1000 Race and the Vendée Arctique, amassing a wealth of experience along the way with over 80,000 miles in his wake to date.

Trackrecord

- 2023
 - Defi Azimut / **27th**
 - Rolex Fastnet / **27th**
- 2022
 - Vendee Arctique / **ABD**
 - Guyader Bermudes 1000 Race / **21st**
- 2021
 - Transat Jacques Vabre / **19th**
- 2019
 - Rolex Fastnet Race / **18th**
 - Bermudes 1000 / **17th**
- 2013
 - Transat Jacques Vabre / **16th Class40**
- 2012
 - Transat Quebec - Saint Malo / **19th Class40**
- 2011
 - Les Sables - Horta - Les Sables / **12th Class40**
 - Record SNSM / **8th Class40**
- 2010
 - La Route du Rhum - La Banque Postale
/ **39th Class40**
- 2009
 - Record SNSM / **9th Class40**
- 2001
 - Mini Transat



04

The boat

Regularly optimised by her former owner, she finished the Vendée Globe 2016 with an excellent 8th place. Since 2018, she has belonged to Denis Van Weynbergh and now flies the flag of D'Ieteren Group.

Based in Les Sables d'Olonne, and more precisely the Vendée Globe pontoon in Port Olona, where the fleet competing in the legendary race tie up alongside every four years, she is rigorously prepared by the Vendée team of volunteers, which is planning a substantial refit in 2024 to optimise the machine.

Moreover, for eco-circular and ethical reasons in particular, the team has opted to kit the boat out with as much second-hand equipment as possible, especially with regards to electronics and fittings. **The key to a lasting project; a 'seaworthy' project, both on land and at sea!**



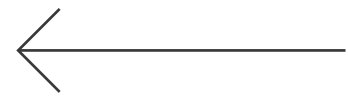


“The team

His team, his strength and his anchorage point. They symbolise the submerged element of an iceberg, without which such a project would not be possible.

Alongside Denis, a team of devoted volunteers with experience in numerous areas of expertise (finance, mechanics, electronics, communication, medicine...) forms the hard core of the D'Ieteren Group Sailing's project, based in Les Sables d'Olonne (Vendée region).

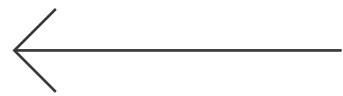




Bénédicte
Foussard

IN REAL LIFE:
Administrative and
Financial Director within
VERTAL group

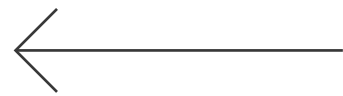
FOR DENIS:
"She's my CFO and
admin manager, she
tempers my fiery side.
She is my rock."



Jean-Noël
Martineau

IN REAL LIFE:
IT Systems & Networks
Expert within ATLANTIC
Group.

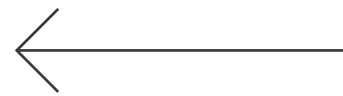
FOR DENIS:
"He takes care of all the
electronics and seeks
out innovative solutions.
He is my Geek!!!"



Frédérique
Martineau

IN REAL LIFE:
Owner of a hotel with a
family atmosphere.

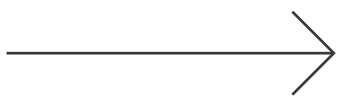
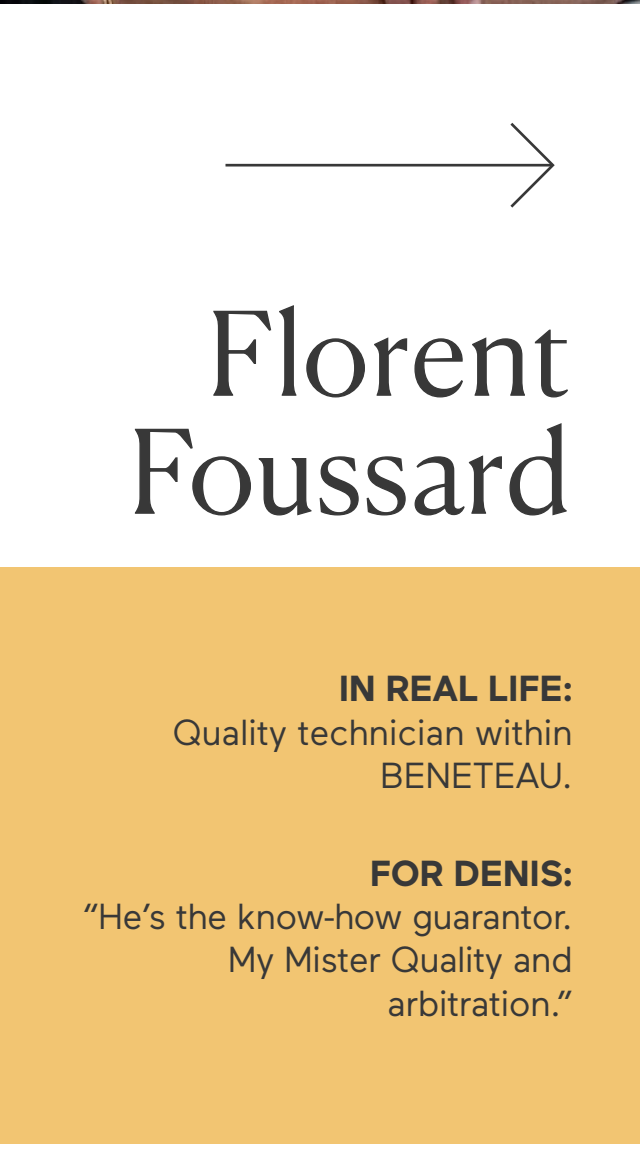
FOR DENIS:
"She takes care of press
relations and hospitality. She
oils the wheels of human
relations, she's my facilitator
and my memory in the weeks
prior to race starts."



Teiva
Tiatia

IN REAL LIFE:
Tiatia trains Polynesian
tattoo artists and supervises
them in his parlours. Moreover,
he created our mana on the
bow of the boat.

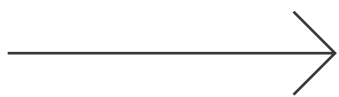
FOR DENIS:
"He takes care of all the
logistics and stocks."



Florent
Foussard

IN REAL LIFE:
Quality technician within
BENETEAU.

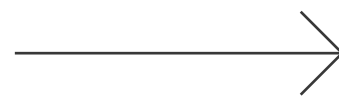
FOR DENIS:
"He's the know-how guarantor.
My Mister Quality and
arbitration."



Céline
Tiatia

IN REAL LIFE:
Céline manages 3
Polynesian tattoo parlours
spread across France.

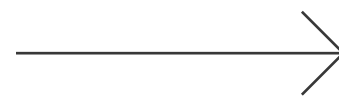
FOR DENIS:
"She takes care of all the
textile/fibre element and
provides logistics
support."



Julien
Berthelot

IN REAL LIFE:
Manager of BJ Nautique,
mechanic and boat
maintenance worker.

FOR DENIS:
"He's my 'McGyver', the project's
technical manager and he
knows how to do everything.
He's my technical reference".



Karine
Ruand

IN REAL LIFE:
Medical secretary within
BYORILYS.

FOR DENIS:
"She takes care of the
medical aspects and helps
out with team logistics."

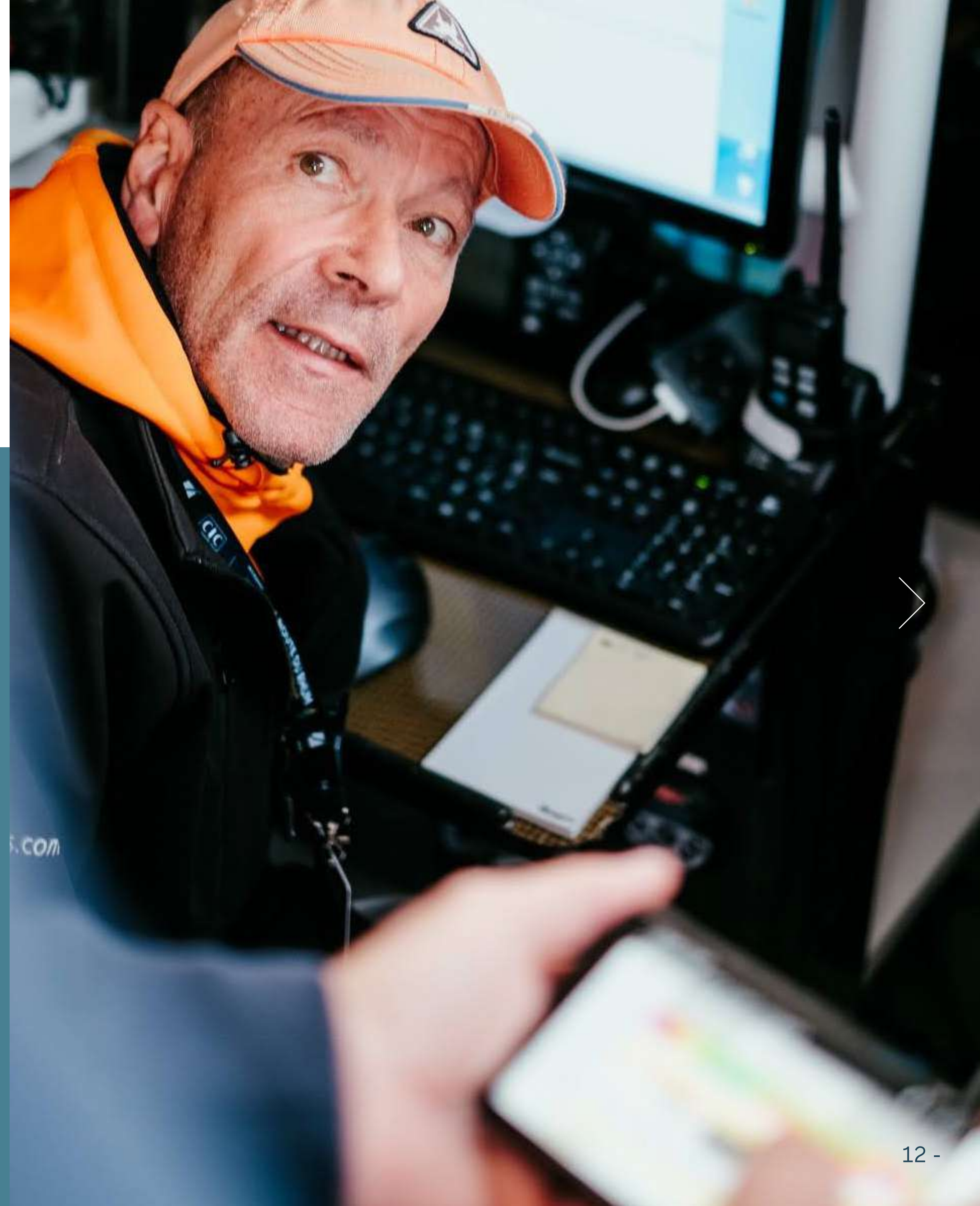


The duo 06 at sea

Together, Denis and Gilles will fly the flag of D'Ieteren Group by lining up for:

The season's main event this winter: the Transat Jacques Vabre. The star double-handed event on the IMOCA schedule, the Franco-Belgian duo will endeavour to get the very best out of the boat D'Ieteren Group from Le Havre to Martinique.

A crucial learning phase for Denis to prepare in the best possible way for the upcoming solo events he will be taking on (2023: Retour à la Base / 2024: The Transat CIC, New York Vendée and Vendée Globe).



Gilles' portrait

At 61, Gilles Buekenhout is a man with multiple talents, skilfully combining architectural plans and vast seascapes. Of Belgian origin, Gilles chose to live in Pornichet, France in 1996, lured by his passion for sailing. The sea with its air of mystery and its challenges, has always appealed to him, prompting him to take part in four editions of the legendary Route du Rhum on a trimaran. He revealed the true extent of his talent in the Route du Rhum 2010 during his first transatlantic on a trimaran.

In addition to his life as a sailor, Gilles is an accomplished architect, heading up his own firm of seven associates, including his wife, who shares his passion for architecture. His demanding professional life influences his project management : precision, forward planning, responsibility and at times the solitude of the entrepreneur. Gilles embodies the daring of an intrepid sailor-architect, whose two roles have forged his strength of character. Gilles' atypical career - childhood in Zaire, studies in Brussels, civil service in Morocco, a position as an architect at Brussels Airport, a stint in boat repair business, and finally, to his own architectural firm in Pornichet - reflects a life driven by a constant search for new challenges.





D'leteren Group

A Family Of Businesses

D'leteren Group is a listed family-controlled investment company with an international portfolio comprising six companies. Since its creation in 1805 in Brussels (Belgium), D'leteren has sported the name of a family of entrepreneurs and has been evolving for more than two centuries to become the entity known today as D'leteren Group.

Passionate about the companies in which it invests, the Group's mission is to build a family of businesses, which is reinventing the sectors it operates in by constantly striving for excellence and having a significant and positive impact.

The group currently owns the following businesses:

Belron (50.03%) has a clear goal: “to make a difference by putting real care into resolving clients’ problems.” The worldwide leader in Vehicle Glass Repair, Replacement and Recalibration, Belron carries out its activities in 37 countries via exclusively owned companies and franchises, with market leading brands including Carglass®, Safelite® and Autoglass®.

D'Ieteren Automotive (100%) distributes the latest vehicles from Volkswagen, Audi, SEAT, CUPRA, ŠKODA, Bentley, Lamborghini, Bugatti, Rimac, Porsche and Microlino in Belgium. D'Ieteren Automotive holds a market share of over 23% and boasts 1.2-million vehicles on the road. On top of this, the company sells used vehicles and provides maintenance, financing and leasing services, plus it has recently launched a bicycle division. It also invests in the latest mobility services through Lab Box, its start-up incubator.

PHE (c.91.4%) is an independent distribution leader for vehicle spares across western Europe, with a presence in France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Italy and Spain. Its mission is to ‘promote affordable and lasting mobility.’

TVH (40%) is a leading global independent distributor of spare parts for handling, construction, industrial and agricultural equipment. Based in Waregem in Belgium, it has 81 branches on every continent.

Moleskine (100%) is an iconic, inspirational brand created from the heritage of a legendary notebook. Moleskine is based in Milan, Italy, and sells its products worldwide via a multichannel distribution platform. Its product portfolio extends beyond the original notebooks to include diaries, writing instruments, bags, reading accessories, as well as a ‘Smart Writing Set’ and mobile applications.

D'Ieteren Immo (100%) is D'Ieteren Group’s real estate company in Belgium. Its assets include offices, workshops, concessions, logistics centres, residential units, car parks and plots of land which are predominantly used by D'Ieteren Automotive.



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