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Agence TB Press

**Saturday, November 29, 2025**

THE FAMOUS PROJECT CIC

# Press Release

**They're off !**

- Start of the all-female attempt to break the round-the-world record
- Alexia Barrier: "I feel very lucky and grateful for all the work that has been done over the last few months and years, all together."
- Dee Caffari: "We're just going to set off, enjoy ourselves, and do what we know how to do. "

**It was 01.40 UTC (14 h 40 FR) on Saturday, November 29, when the eight women of The Famous Project CIC, aboard the maxi trimaran IDEC SPORT, crossed the starting line of the Jules Verne Trophy, the extreme round-the-world race for crewed multihulls, without stops or assistance.**



The date and time are worth noting, because since 1998 and the unfortunately aborted attempt by British sailor Tracy Edwards on the catamaran Royal&Sun Alliance, no all-female crew has taken up this immense challenge. Alexia Barrier, from Antibes, has already achieved the feat of getting to the starting line, with an international crew of eight sailors of seven different nationalities, aged 23 to 52, who come from all corners of the sailing world, from Olympic sailing to ocean racing, and who have thus set out on a dangerous 40,000 km voyage via the three great capes, the Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin, and Cape Horn, in an attempt to break the most fabulous sailing record, set nine years ago by Francis Joyon and his five-man crew: 40 days, 23 hours, and 30 minutes.

The Bay of Biscay, shaken by the passage of a front, welcomes the sailors with its stormy weather, waves of 4 to 5 meters, and a northwesterly wind that is fortunately well oriented to favor downwind sailing. There is only one watchword: caution! Don't break anything, and get as comfortable as possible while waiting for the wind to drop and the sea to calm down in the middle of next week, somewhere off the coast of Portugal. Then the smiles, good humor, and kindness that are Alexia's trademark will return, heralding a truly extraordinary round-the-world voyage.

**ALEXIA BARRIER, captain. "We are strong together."**

*"I am very happy today, on the day of departure for the Jules Verne Trophy with my team. I feel very lucky and grateful for all the work that has been done over the last few months and years, all together. It's really a collective celebration to be at the starting line."*

*Obviously, I'm a little nervous because what we're doing is huge. But what reassures me a lot is having these incredible girls by my side. I'm not alone and I know my team is up to the task.*

*We'll be sailing downwind until we reach the equator. These are conditions we know well. Further on, the doldrums are still shifting. As Brian Thompson, who has helped us a lot throughout this training course on trimarans with the girls, would say, "You're going to experience the toughest 24 hours of your Jules Verne Trophy. "*

*So we need to stay focused and conservative so we don't hurt ourselves or break anything on the first day.*

*We don't have a battle cry, we just hug each other tightly. I know that once we leave the bridge, we'll start singing and smiling again. Our comfort zone is being happy together. I see a lot of emotion in the girls' eyes, and I'm happy to take them on this journey. I'm proud of what we've all done together once again."*

**DEE CAFFARI: "A very good start!"**

*"I'm surprisingly calm, but I think I'm calm to help everyone else, because you can feel a certain nervousness. The main goal has always been to get to the starting line, and I think today we took a big step forward. It's an important milestone, and I think it deserves a little celebration.*

*It's been a long road, with ups and downs, but Alexia never lost confidence or faith in herself, and I supported her throughout. So I'm very happy to be here. Today it's about reminding the girls that we're just going to sail, which is what they do perfectly, but simply that they won't be sleeping in a bed for a few days. That's exactly what we practiced in training, so we're just going to set off, enjoy ourselves, and do what we know how to do. We wanted a perfect start, but perfection doesn't exist in sailing, because we're at the mercy of Mother Nature. That said, it's a very good start. "*

**The crew :**

Alexia Barrier (46) – France – Captain  
Dee Caffari (53) – Great Britain – First Officer  
Annemieke Bes (47) – Netherlands  
Rebecca Bex Gmuer (25) - Switzerland - New Zealand  
Deborah Blair (23) - Great Britain  
Molly Lapointe (30) - American-Italian - Boat Captain  
Tamara Xiquita Echegoyen (41) - Spain  
Stacey Jackson (42) - Australia

**They said:**

**Daniel Baal, President of CIC**

*"The time has come to wish the best of luck to the entire crew of The Famous Project CIC. Congratulations to Alexia for holding on to her dream and putting this project together against all odds, always with enthusiasm and professionalism. In my eyes, this departure is already a victory and proves how much this commitment goes beyond sporting performance. The CIC is proud to support The Famous Project CIC, because through this initiative, we want to demonstrate our support for women's commitment in*

*all its dimensions. Now it's time for sport. It's up to Alexia, Dee, Stacey, Tamara, Molly, Deborah, Rebecca, and Annemieke to write their story, their adventure. We are with them. Make us dream."*

**Patrice Lafargue: President of the IDEC Group**

*"We are delighted to support Alexia Barrier and her crew in their attempt to break the Jules Verne Trophy record. The IDEC SPORT maxi-trimaran has a unique history, and seeing it set sail today with an all-female crew ready to take on one of the most demanding records is a source of immense pride for all the employees of the IDEC GROUP. The Jules Verne Trophy embodies the strong values we share: respect for the environment, inclusion, passion, pushing oneself beyond one's limits, and commitment. Daring, setting challenges, and pushing boundaries: this is what drives the spirit of IDEC SPORT and the entire IDEC GROUP."*

**Eric Pasquier, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Strategy Officer at Sopra Steria:**

*"We are proud to support these eight sailors as they embark on an extraordinary adventure. Beyond the technologies we are providing to help them in their challenge, the whole of Sopra Steria is behind them in this record attempt. Their audacity and determination resonate deeply within our company. We wish them all the best and salute the scope of what they are attempting to achieve."*

**Amanda Mille - Director of the Richard Mille brand and partnerships -**

*"Today marks a major milestone: the departure of The Famous Project CIC. The entire Richard Mille team stands by your side with admiration and pride. Your audacity, determination, and ability to overcome all challenges are a source of inspiration."*



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Crédit Alexander Champy-McLean, Jean-Marie Liot, Robin Cristol

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### **About CIC :**

A leading bank in France and internationally, CIC serves more than 5.7 million clients through a French network of over 1,600 branches and 20,000 employees, as well as international offices in 36 countries. To meet the needs of all economic stakeholders and deliver consistently high-performing solutions, CIC combines expertise in finance, insurance, telecommunications, and advanced technology services, backed by the strong financial foundation of its parent company, Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale. Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale brings together the Crédit Mutuel local banks of the following regional federations: Centre Est Europe (Strasbourg), Sud-Est (Lyon), Île-de-France (Paris), Savoie-Mont Blanc (Annecy), Midi-Atlantique (Toulouse), Loire-

Atlantique et Centre Ouest (Nantes), Centre (Orléans), Normandie (Caen), Dauphiné-Vivaraïs (Valence), Méditerranéen (Marseille), Anjou (Angers), Massif Central (Clermont-Ferrand), Antilles-Guyane (Fort-de-France), and Nord Europe (Lille). It also includes Caisse Fédérale de Crédit Mutuel, Banque Fédérative du Crédit Mutuel (BFCM), and all of its subsidiaries, notably CIC, Euro-Information, Assurances du Crédit Mutuel (ACM), TARGOBANK in Germany, Beobank in Belgium, Cofidis, Banque Européenne du Crédit Mutuel (BECM), Banque Transatlantique, and Homiris.

More information at [www.cic.fr](http://www.cic.fr)

#### **About Groupe IDEC:**

A major player in real estate, **Groupe IDEC** brings together more than twenty specialized companies. It operates in France and internationally to develop, finance, provide innovative energy solutions, design, and build all types of buildings. The group positions itself as a responsible actor in the energy transition and the reduction of land artificialization. Each project is approached in partnership with local communities to revitalize territories by creating new living and working spaces. This commitment reflects a strong ambition to contribute to the green growth of cities, businesses, and individuals, while also addressing the challenges of economic, sustainable, coherent, and pragmatic development.

#### **About Sopra Steria:**

**Sopra Steria**, a major tech player in Europe with 50,000 employees in nearly 30 countries, is recognized for its consulting, digital services, and software development. It supports its clients in their digital transformation, delivering tangible and sustainable results.

The Group offers comprehensive responses to the competitiveness challenges of large companies and organizations, combining deep industry knowledge and technological expertise with a collaborative approach. Sopra Steria places people at the heart of its mission and is committed to helping its clients harness the full potential of digital technology to build a positive future.

In 2024, the Group generated revenue of **€5.8 billion**.

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**RICHARD MILLE**

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