

The SYZ & CO hydrofoil catamaran will be on the starting line of the 2010 Bol d'Or Mirabaud

- New spectacular flying photos by Loris von Siebenthal
- Longer mast will improve performance in light weather

Geneva, 4 June 2010 – The SYZ & CO hydrofoil catamaran's team is eagerly preparing to take part in the 2010 edition of the Bol d'Or Mirabaud. The intensive sailing sessions conducted by the new professional team during the past weeks have allowed for rapid progress : the boat flies well and reaches high speeds in moderate conditions. Over the week-end, a new mast longer by 2 meters will be put in place, which will constitute the final element in the modifications carried on this winter and will allow to improve performance in lighter winds.

Extended hulls, longer mast, new sails, optimised hydraulics system, new sailing team : everything is now in place to start the season in the best possible conditions targeting two major events this year : Lake Geneva's speed records and the Bol d'Or Mirabaud ! Announced a few weeks ago with Luc du Bois's arrival, these modifications have been validated in grand style with superb flight sessions, immortalised by sailing photographer Loris von Siebenthal.

The hiring of a professional team, headed by Luc du Bois, has allowed to progress rapidly by intensively undertaking the necessary tests. *« Such a pioneering project had to have all the chances on its side. In this case, this meant working with a team of professional sailors, able to spend the necessary hours on the water in order to conduct speed tests, polars analysis, tuning trials, etc.. »* remarks Alex Schneiter, one of the project initiators. *« Today we are more convinced than ever of the concept's validity and are even more motivated to bring this project where it belongs : among the pioneering ideas that make naval architecture move one step further ! »*.

Today, the team works relentlessly together with the top specialists in order to prepare the boat for the 2010 Bol d'Or Mirabaud, especially with Luc du Bois, for performance analysis and sailing, but also with João Cabeçadas, former shore crew at Alinghi, for all the fittings.

This week-end, a new mast, with 2 meters added, will be installed and the team will have just a week left to test the new configuration and tune the new sails. *« We expect a lot from this new mast ! »* explains Luc du Bois. *« The boat has already proved her potential in moderate wind conditions and we are now impatient to see the results we can achieve in lighter winds. Of course, wind conditions at the time of the Bol d'Or Mirabaud are rarely ideal for a boat like ours, but we might get lucky this year »*.

The Bol d'Or crew includes Alex Schneiter, Patrick Firmenich, Boet Brinkgreve and Marc Streich. But until then, the whole team is in a fervent buzz of activity: They have just a week left until the starting gun of Lake Geneva's mythical race. After that, the team will set its sights on the race for speed records...

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Technical information SYZ & CO hydrofoil catamaran:

Main sail	57.50 m2
Head sail	31.50 m2
Stay sail	16 m2
Gennaker	96 m2
Displacement	950 kg
Crew	4
Air draught	18.38 m
LOA	10.81 m
LWL	12.17 m
Mast length	17.50 m
BOA	10.08 m

About SYZ & CO

Founded in 1996 by Eric Syz, Alfredo Piacentini and Paolo Luban, Geneva-based banking group SYZ & CO has established itself as a respected financial firm thanks to its original concept and years of strong results. SYZ & CO focuses exclusively on asset management, with more than CHF 20 billion under management and 370 staff.

Headquartered in Geneva, the Group also has offices in Zurich, Lugano, Locarno, London, Luxembourg, Vienna, Milan, Rome, Nassau and Hong Kong.

Its activities are based on three complementary cornerstones:

- High-end private banking with Banque SYZ & CO SA
- Institutional Asset Management
- Top-performing investment funds with OYSTER, the Luxembourg SICAV
- High-quality alternative investments with 3A SA (Alternative Asset Advisors), one of Europe's leading hedge fund management specialists

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The Institute of Polymer Engineering of the University of Applied Sciences of Northwestern Switzerland focuses its research on new engineering processes and techniques for the structures of high-end composite materials. Its involvement in this project underlines its determination to develop the use of composites for sustainable development.