

Spectra Geospatial GNSS Receiver Chosen for Solo Around-the-world Yacht Race



The Spectra Geospatial SP90m GNSS receiver has been selected by the racing yacht *Mail,tre CoQ* for the 2020 Vendée Globe, single-handed, non-stop around-the-world yacht race. The Vendée Globe is an extreme endurance test for both sailor and boat and widely considered the ultimate challenge in ocean racing.

The [SP90m](#) provides the skipper of the *Mail,tre CoQ*, Yannick Bestaven, with

precise position and boat heading information. The SP90m information is integrated into a separate attitude information source, and the entire package of the position, heading and attitude is sent to the boat's autopilot. Bestaven, responding to the changing sea and wind conditions, strategically adjusts the autopilot to keep the boat moving at top speed to the desired destination as he changes and trims sails and trims foils to achieve maximum sailing efficiency.

Precise Position Information at Sea

The [Mail,tre CoQ](#) is an advanced design mono-hull foiling sailing yacht in the category of IMOCA (International Monohull Offshore Class Association), which have a fixed length of 18.28m (60feet). Antoine Connan, head of engineering for the *Mail,tre CoQ* racing team, selected the SP90m. The hostile environment and requirements for precise position information at sea far from land made the selection of the SP90m an important technical choice. It always delivers an accurate position and precise heading with no GNSS corrections. Commenting on the performance of the SP90m in the recent July 2020 2,800-mile qualifying race, the Vendée-Arctique-Les Sables-d'Olonne, Connan reports: "We are already very happy with its installation on board."

The SP90m is a rugged design ideal for marine environments. With 480-channel tracking and dual GNSS antenna inputs, the SP90m is an integrated onboard rover receiver offering minimal size and low power consumption.

Hostile Saltwater Environment

When the *Mail,tre CoQ* technical team, based in La Rochelle, decided they needed to upgrade the boat's navigation system, they contacted Cadden, a recognized specialist in supplying advanced electronic precision measurement sensors. In addition to the requirement for delivering fast, precise position and heading data, the new sensor had to be lightweight, small, require little power, be easy to integrate, and flawlessly withstand a hostile saltwater environment. Cadden's analysis concluded that the Spectra Geospatial SP90m met the standards the best.

About the Vendée Globe 2020

Held every four years, the [Vendée Globe](#) is a single-handed (solo) non-stop yacht race around the world without assistance. It starts and finishes in Les Sables-d'Olonne in the Département of Vendée in France. This year's Vendée Globe 2020 will start on November 8 and is expected to finish in late January or early February. The course is a circumnavigation from Les Sables-d'Olonne that heads south in the Atlantic Ocean to the Cape of Good Hope, then east in the Southern Ocean clockwise around Antarctica, keeping Australia's Cape Leeuwin and South America's Cape Horn to port (to the left), then back north in the Atlantic returning to finish in Les Sables-d'Olonne.



The skipper of the *Mail,tre CoQ*, Yannick Bestaven.