

21 MARCH 2019

GROUPE LEGRIS INDUSTRIES RETURNS TO COMPETITIVE SAILING ALONGSIDE ARKEA AND PAPREC

From its earliest days, Groupe Legris Industries has been active in competitive sailing, backing teams in the America's Cup, the Tour de France à la Voile, and the Olympic Games. Combining as it does a focus on cutting-edge technology and dedication to personal performance, this sport is a natural match for us. This bold human endeavor has a culture of strong team spirit, respect for the forces of nature, and meticulous preparation—all values that we share.

When Arkéa Capital became a Legris Industries shareholder at the end of 2018, we seized the opportunity to support an ambitious three-year project with the 2020 Vendée Globe race as its high point. More specifically, we will make an appropriate contribution to the Arkéa Paprec Team, named after its top two sponsors. This project backs Sébastien Simon, a talented young skipper who won the latest La Solitaire URGO Le Figaro race and is France's reigning Champion d'Elite de Course au Large—a point-based offshore and ocean sailing competition.

Everest of the seas: Vendée Globe takes elite sailing to new heights

For Sébastien Simon, a 28-year-old structural and composite engineer from Les Sables d'Olonne on France's Atlantic coast, competing in the Vendée Globe is a life-long dream. In 2020 he will be one of some 30 solo sailors in this round-the-world challenge—non-stop, with no assistance—at the helm of his new boat, the IMOCA Arkéa Paprec.

To prepare for the race, Sébastien will work with Vincent Riou, winner of the 2004-2005 Vendée Globe and holder of many other titles. As Operations Manager at Team Arkéa Paprec, Vincent will join Sébastien for a series of solo and double-handed qualifying races ahead of the 2020 Vendée Globe.

In addition to Vincent's experience and expertise, Sébastien will benefit from the technical and technological edge of a new sailboat designed by Juan Kouyoumdjian. The hull and deck of the IMOCA are being built by CDK Technologies at Port-la-Forêt in the Finistère region of Brittany, where Team Arkéa Paprec is based. The hull has already been delivered, and components are now being assembled, with launch set for July 2019.

In the meantime, Sébastien will train and race aboard the PRB, formerly skippered by Vincent Riou and relaunched on March 1 under the colors of Arkéa and Paprec.

ABOUT GROUPE LEGRIS INDUSTRIES

Founded in 1986, Legris Industries is a diversified industrial group that is primarily family-owned. It holds a unique position helping mid-size industries grow.

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