



## PRESS RELEASE

### ALBERTO BONA VINCE LA RORC CARIBBEAN 600 ON BOARD THE CLASS40 IBSA

Antigua, February 24, 2023 – Alberto Bona, on board *IBSA*, won in the Class40 category the RORC Caribbean 600, the 600-mile “slalom” race between the Caribbean islands, which started on February 20 from Antigua. **The Class40 IBSA crossed the finish line in first place shortly after midnight (Caribbean time), showing endurance, focus, quality and great tactical ability.**

A wonderful start of the season, a victory desired from the very start, built on the field in a regatta fought in every detail and every manoeuvre. **On board, together with Alberto**, a crew that proved to be exceptionally effective: **Pablo Santurde del Arco**, the highly experienced Spanish navigator who joined the project this year; Frenchman **Luke Berry**, ocean sailor and owner of *IBSA*'s Class40 sister boat; and team manager **Luca Bertacchi**.

The Class40 *IBSA* ended its 600-mile run at 00:17 am on February 23, in **2 days, 13 hours, 7 minutes and 18 seconds**, with a 14-minute lead on Ambrogio Beccaria's *Alla Grande Pirelli* and a 27-minute one on Axel Trehin's *Project Rescue Ocean*. From the very first miles, the three crews carried on a regatta within a regatta, marking each other and making this 13-leg grand “slalom” between the Caribbean islands even more exciting.

*“Challenging, beautiful, compelling: after over three months of break”, stated **Albert Bona**, “this is the regatta that we needed to open the Class40 IBSA’s second season. We raced like lions, always in contact with the others and sparing nothing, and all of this paid off. An impeccable performance, that showed the boat’s potential on a very varied course. I liked everything: the atmosphere on board, the choices we made and the reaction in the most challenging moment, when yesterday we left Guadeloupe in third place and we reacted immediately, taking back the lead of the race. Right choices of sails, right choice of the team: we tried a lot of things on the boat. I exchanged many sensations with Luke, who sailed on his sister boat. The whole team did a superb job. Pablo is a war machine: you can’t stop him, he really impressed me and I’m very happy to participate in other regattas with him. Luca Bertacchi lived this adventure with us, he gave us a hand, it was important to have him on board. The Class40 IBSA also showed its full potential. In short, we started well”.*

A start to the season that is good for the Class40 *IBSA* and for the project *Sailing into the Future. Together*, which begins 2023 with renewed enthusiasm and a lot of determination, to face and overcome the challenges awaiting it.

*“This team victory underlines one of the values at the basis of all our projects: in fact, the first crew to cross the finish line was an international team who exposed some of the best talents in European sailing”, declared **Giorgio Pisani, IBSA Vice President Southern Europe and Project Leader of Sailing into the Future. Together**. “Starting the second year of this project with a victory is the best we could wish for our Class40 IBSA, called upon this year to face great challenges and to sail over 13,000 miles along the two sides of the Atlantic. For us at IBSA it’s a project which can inspire not only all sailing enthusiasts, but also our collaborators and those who share our passion and commitment to sport”.*

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**THE PROJECT: *Sailing into the Future. Together*** started in January 2022; the partnership between IBSA and Alberto Bona was born on common bases and values, and aims to use sailing as a vehicle for corporate communication, towards the market and the nautical world. Ingenuity, courage, innovation, responsibility are elements that unite IBSA and Alberto, and the oceanic challenge, in addition to the sporting race, also metaphorically represents the company’s history, philosophy and vision, which are always oriented towards the future and are part of a path that brings IBSA increasingly closer to the topics of environmental and social sustainability, inclusion and integration. The *Route du Rhum* was the first stage of the three-year programme *Sailing Into The Future. Together*, which the Swiss pharmaceutical company started with Bona and which continues in 2023 with a busy calendar of regattas, including the *Rolex Fastnet Race* and the *Transat Jacques Vabre*.



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**THE BOAT:** The boat with which Alberto Bona participated in the *Route du Rhum* in November is a latest generation Class40, with a scow bow. Designed by French naval architect Sam Manuard and built by the JPS Production shipyard, the boat is a Mach 5 model, the latest evolution of Manuard's Class40.

The characteristics: rounded bow, created with the aim of increasing performance while running; water lines and appendages designed to make the hull an all-round fast even upwind; large and protected cockpit to face navigation in the most comfortable and safe positions possible.

**THE SKIPPER:** Alberto Bona is from Turin, and has a degree in philosophy. As a university student, he won the **Panerai trophy** with *Stormvogel*, fast ULDB and historic boat with which he crossed the Atlantic Ocean for the first time, winning the ARC with a New Zealand crew. In 2012 he took part in the **Minitransat**, finishing 5<sup>th</sup>, one of the best Italian results ever in this category. In 2015, he switched to the prototype category **Mini 6.50** with *Promostudi La Spezia*: he won the Italian championship and finished second in the ocean crossing Les Sables-Azores. In 2017 he discovered the **Class40**: on Giovanni Soldini's former *Telecom Italia*, he participated in the *Transat Jacques Vabres*, where he was forced to withdraw when he was in sixth place. In 2019 he was aboard the **Maserati Multi 70** trimaran, one of the fastest boats in the world, where he practiced on the foils before moving on to the **Figaro Beneteau 3**, aboard which he participated in the Solitaire; the only Italian registered, he finished 7<sup>th</sup> among the rookies in the first year and 16<sup>th</sup> overall in 2020. In 2021 he won the **Italian offshore team title** and the **Europeans in mixed doubles aboard the Figaro 3**. In 2022 he started the new project, with the support of the IBSA Group: with the new Class40 *IBSA*, he participated in the *Route du Rhum 2022*, finishing in eighth position.

**IBSA:** IBSA (*Institut Biochimique SA*) is a Swiss multinational pharmaceutical Company, founded in 1945 in Lugano. Today, its products are present in over 90 Countries on 5 continents, through the Company's 17 subsidiaries located in Europe, China, and the United States. The company has a consolidated turnover of 800 million CHF, and employs over 2,000 people between headquarters, subsidiaries and production sites. IBSA holds 90 families of approved patents, plus others under development, as well as a vast portfolio of products, covering 10 therapeutic areas: reproductive medicine, endocrinology, pain and inflammation, osteoarticular, aesthetic medicine, dermatology, uro-gynaecology, cardiometabolic, respiratory, consumer health. It is also one of the largest operators worldwide in the area of reproductive medicine, and one of the world's leaders in hyaluronic acid-based products. IBSA has based its philosophy on four pillars: Person, Innovation, Quality and Responsibility.

### **FOR INFORMATION TO THE PRESS**

#### **IBSA Press Office – Italy**

Valeria Riccobono – [valeria.riccobono@noesis.net](mailto:valeria.riccobono@noesis.net) – mob: +39 392 9625 892

Ornella Reccia – [ornella.reccia@noesis.net](mailto:ornella.reccia@noesis.net) – mob: +39 329 3931 922

#### **IBSA Press Office – Switzerland**

Francesca Rossini – [notizie@laboratoriodelleparole.net](mailto:notizie@laboratoriodelleparole.net) – mob: +41 77 417 93 72