



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IBSA AND ALBERTO BONA THE SEASON'S MOST CHALLENGING REGATTA IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY

- **Ocean sailing: Alberto Bona ready for the *Transat CIC* starting on April 28; the Class40 *IBSA* in the water after 90 days of maintenance**
- **Inclusive sailing: IBSA continuous support to FIV's *Para Sailing Academy* project**

Milan (Italy), March 26, 2024 – Training, local regattas and test runs with other Class40s one month before the start of the *Transat CIC*: everything is ready for the first seasonal appointment of Alberto Bona and the Class40 *IBSA*. “*About ten days ago, the Class40 IBSA was launched and rated once again; the boat then touched the water after three months of intense maintenance, at the end of the second racing season*”, recalled **Alberto**. “*We completed the expected works: comprehensive overhaul after 50,000 miles of navigation, relocation of the ballasts, implementation of the rest station, additional belts to avoid falling and a series of other improvements. In these ten days, we started sailing again and we are testing the boat at sea: finally, we are back in the water; the boat is responding well and we are ready to face this new season, together with IBSA*”.

The third year of the project *Sailing into the Future. Together* has begun, and **Giorgio Pisani, Vice President of IBSA Group and Project Leader** stated: “*We are very proud to participate in the Transat CIC, a solo challenge which requires particular courage and determination to best manage the endeavour, while relying on an established expertise*”.

The **partnership between IBSA and the Italian Sailing Federation (FIV, Federazione Italiana Vela) to support the project *Para Sailing Academy*** (a disabled sailing school) also continues, with the inclusive sailing programme dedicated to people with disabilities. “*Our goal is to allow more and more people with disabilities to come into contact with the world of sailing and find new stimuli, while promoting integration and inclusion*”, declared **Francesco Ettore, President of FIV**.

New stimuli and new challenges especially for **Alberto Bona, who is preparing for the *Transat CIC*** and who – after sailing in a multi-crew for the entire 2023 season – **goes back to solo sailing**: “*It's the first time that 'racing' Class40s like ours participate in this regatta, which has not taken place for 8 years, because the 2020 edition was cancelled due to COVID. We will have to follow a route completely different from the previous transoceanics, one for which I am preparing with great commitment. We will find very cold seas, with waters that in some areas may have a temperature of a few degrees above zero: it's imperative to have the right equipment, get wet as little as possible, not stay wet for long and be able to rest even in such complex contexts, while keeping maximum safety*”, continued the skipper.

On the training front, next weekend Bona will participate in the **Spi Ouest-France BPGO** in La Trinité-sur-Mer (France), with the aim of getting back into the racing rhythm. Then, in Lorient, April 2 will be a day of celebrations: indeed, the **Class40 will celebrate 20 years since its foundation** and our **Alberto will stand on the podium, together with Pablo Santurde del Arco, as winner of the International Class Championship of the 2023 season**. “*It will be a major moment in a major context. The result I achieved with Pablo last season, together with the 24-hour speed record, will remain in the history of the Class40, and is the starting point for this very demanding and motivating season*”, commented **Bona**.



The following days will be dedicated to a set of **collective training, together with other Class40s participating in the Transat CIC**; a very important test, that involves offshore navigation. Upon returning, another “pit stop” in the shipyard for a last check and then off to Lorient: “*We will be in Lorient well in advance*”, explained **Bona**. “*We will be the first to undergo the safety checks and then we will be ready for the big challenge*”.

A challenge that will keep the Class40 **IBSA** overseas for more than two months, until the return to Europe with the **Quebec Saint-Malo**, which will start on June 30 and in view of which Alberto officially announced **his crew mates: Luca Rosetti, winner of the Mini Transat 2023, and Pablo Santurde del Arco**. “*My relationship with Luca Rosetti began last year: we immediately got along very well and I am sure that he will add value to our team*”, concluded **Alberto**.

THE PROJECT: The three-year project *Sailing into the Future. Together* was launched in January 2022. The partnership between IBSA and skipper Alberto Bona was born on common bases and values, and aims to use sailing as a corporate communication vehicle towards the market and the nautical world. Ingenuity, courage, innovation, responsibility are elements that unites IBSA and Alberto, and the oceanic challenge, in addition to the sporting competition, also metaphorically represents the company's history, philosophy and vision, which are always oriented towards and are part of a path that brings IBSA increasingly closer to the topic of environmental and social sustainability, with a particular focus on inclusive sailing projects for people with disabilities. In November 2022, the *Route du Rhum* was the first sporting stage of the project *Sailing into the Future. Together*. In 2023, Bona and the Class40 **IBSA** participated in six regattas, including the *Roxel Fastnet Race* and the *Transat Jacques Vabre*. With two victories and three podiums, the record for the highest number of miles covered in 24 hours and over 15,000 miles sailed, Bona won first place overall in the Class40 International Championship. In 2024, between April and July, he will face two of the toughest transatlantic races on the international scene: the *Transat CIC* from Lorient (France) to New York and the *Quebec Saint-Malo* (from Canada to France).

THE SKIPPER: Alberto Bona is from Turin, and has a degree in philosophy. As a university student, he won the *Panerai* trophy aboard *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 5th, 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 Vabre*, 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 world's fastest boats, 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, in 2020 he finished 7th among the rookies in the first year and 16th overall. 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 in partnership with IBSA: after an eighth place in the *Route du Rhum 2022*, in 2023 Alberto won the Class40 International Championship, closing a season with three podiums and over 15,000 miles covered.

THE BOAT: Designed by French naval architect Sam Manuard and built by the JPS Production shipyard, Alberto Bona's boat is a Class40 Mach 5 model. Its main characteristics are: scow bow – rounded and with a wider and flatter shape than standard bows – designed to stay high above the water and avoid being submerged; *all-round* hull, particularly performing in conditions of strong tailwinds; and a large, shielded cockpit, to face extreme conditions of navigation in as comfortable and safe as possible positions.

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 18 subsidiaries located in Europe, China, and the United States. The company has a consolidated turnover of 900 million CHF, and employs over 2,200 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 more information, visit www.ibsasailing.com/en/

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