



PRESS RELEASE

**TRANSAT QUÉBEC SAINT-MALO:  
THREE DAYS LEFT TO THE START FOR THE CLASS40 IBSA**

- *The Transat Québec Saint-Malo ideally closes a circle in which Alberto Bona, with his Class40, masterfully led a team and took the entire IBSA world on a 50,000+ mile adventure*
- *A crewed cross from West to East, the regatta will be an exciting challenge, with the first 370 miles to be covered along the St. Lawrence River (Canada) before reaching the ocean*
- *Skipper Alberto Bona: “A truly unique regatta – beautiful and challenging – awaits us”*

**Quebec City (Canada), June 27, 2024** – Over 2,897 nautical miles for a regatta that promises to be very exciting. Alberto Bona and the Class40 IBSA will be protagonists of the *Transat Québec Saint-Malo*, starting on **June 30** from Quebec City (Canada). A start from a river, an ocean navigation and a “landing” in the English Channel: the ingredients are all there for this exciting and difficult crewed crossing.

This year the **10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Quebec Saint-Malo sees the Class40 as the absolute protagonists**, with 25 crafts – the best of ocean sailing in this category – on the starting line, plus four boats from other classes.

It is probably the adjective “unique” that best summarises the character of this regatta, which is back after eight years, due to the forced break due to the pandemic.

Unique for its route – it’s in fact one of the few West-to-East transoceanic regattas – it’s also exceptional because approximately 10% of navigation occurs along the St. Lawrence, a river that will be very difficult to navigate due to currents, tides, cetaceans, prohibited areas and a few very narrow passages, which will affect tactics and force the crews to be focused and alert. Once left the river estuary – which with the American Great Lakes complex is one of the largest and most important waterways in the world, with an impressive merchant traffic – the teams will find themselves in the North Atlantic, where they will have to choose the best “trajectory” to return to Europe. The crews will have to deal with the ice in the North, the still low temperatures in some stretches and the treacherous currents before reaching the eastern and more familiar part of the Ocean, which will lead the Class40 IBSA, after two and a half months, back to Europe. **Arrival in Saint-Malo (France), where it all began almost three years ago, with the start of the Route du Rhum, the first solo regatta of the project Sailing into the Future. Together.**

For Alberto Bona and the Class40 IBSA **it will be a three-man race. The skipper has indeed wanted with him on board Pablo Santurde del Arco – with whom he shared the cockpit during the main regattas of 2023 – and Luca Rosetti**, the Italian winner of the Mini Transat 2023 and already part of the team, having carried out the transfer of the Class40 IBSA last year from Martinique to Europe.

*“It’s time to return to Europe, to bring the Class40 IBSA back to where it all began. After the Transat CIC and the transfer to Canada, a truly unique regatta – beautiful and challenging – awaits us. Sailing in a crew, with Pablo and Luca, will allow us to live a new experience, where the crossing of a river will be an exciting conundrum to solve until we reach the ocean, but – this time – at new latitudes”,*



commented our **skipper**; “*Unlike the Transat CIC, where buffer areas had been positioned which prevented us from going very far North, here, once we exit the St Lawrence estuary, we will find ourselves immersed in places that are still unknown, but also very insidious, with new scenarios to discover and strategies to define, before reaching the part of the eastern Atlantic closer to home*”.

**The eastward transatlantic, therefore, ideally closes a circle**, with 50,000+ miles covered, during which Alberto masterfully led a team and took the entire IBSA world on a new adventure: “*From Europe to the Caribbean, from the United States to Canada, the project Sailing into the Future. Together involved thousands of IBSA collaborators all over the world and allowed us so far to tell the story of the adventure, the preparation, the commitment and our values, associating them with skipper Alberto Bona and the sport of sailing*”, declared **Antonio Melli, Vice President of IBSA Group**.

Several are the top-level crews, starting with the Italian teams of Ambrogio Beccaria and Alberto Riva: “*It will be a naval battle! There are many strong crews, as always in Class40. Racing as a crew allows us to go back to the racing dynamics we experienced in 2023, with quick choices and a fast pace: the Atlantic will become our chessboard*”, concluded **Bona**.

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**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 *Rolex 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 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 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 7<sup>th</sup> among the rookies in the first year and 16<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.ibsasailing.com/en/)**

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