



For Immediate Release

Final Tally of 14 International Competitors for 2012 Atlantic Cup presented by 11th Hour Racing Marks the Biggest Class 40 Field Ever to Race in the United States

Pabst Blue Ribbon joins as Event's Official Beer Sponsor

May 3, 2012 – Newport, R.I. The **2012 Atlantic Cup presented by 11th Hour Racing** announced today the final international field of 14 Class 40s from the USA, France, Germany and Great Britain that will compete in the multi-city event. The race features the largest fleet of Class 40s ever to race in the United States. Several accomplished skippers have recently joined the field including **Ryan Breymaier** (Mare - GER), **Halvard Mabire** and **Miranda Merron** (Campagne De France – FRA) and **Jesse Naimark-Rowse** (Talan-Bureau Veritas – FRA), among the other top class 40 skippers, who will set sail from Charleston, S.C. on Thursday, May 11 at 6 p.m. ET en route to New York Harbor for the second leg of the competition and a Pro-Am event (May 14 - 19), before departing on May 19 at 11 a.m. ET on the final leg of competition. The annual event culminates in Newport, R.I. with two days of Inshore racing (May 26 – 27).

Some of the accomplishments of the Skippers include:

- **Ryan Breymaier** - Breymaier is an accomplished IMOCA60 and MOD70 sailor. He placed 5th in the Barcelona World Race and won the Fastnet on board the MOD70 Veola. An American from Maryland, Breymaier will race with Jörg Riechers for the Charleston to New York leg of the race.
- **Halvard Mabire and Miranda Merron** - Mabire has over 300,000 miles of offshore experience which includes 5 Whitbreds, 32 Transatlantic races and a victory in the first edition of the Mini Transat. Merron has been racing professionally for the past 14 years and her resume includes the Volvo Ocean Race, Route du Rhum and the Quebec-St. Malo. Campagne de France's duo of Mabire and Merron joined the Atlantic Cup after retiring from the Global Ocean Race.
- **Jesse Naimark-Rowse** – Naimark-Rowse is the youngest American to complete the Mini Transat and also placed 3rd in the 2011 Transat Jacques Vabre. Another American from Boston, MA, Naimark-Rowse will race with Stephane Le Diraison on TALAN-Bureau Veritas.

Event organizers also announced two beverage sponsors today: **Pabst Blue Ribbon** and **Doublecross Vodka**. Pabst Blue Ribbon has joined the international event as its official Beer Sponsor, which includes an onsite presence at the conclusion of each leg of the competition. Doublecross Vodka has also come aboard to support the Newport, R.I. prize giving on May 27.

"The Atlantic Cup is poised to be one of the most challenging and rewarding sailing races in the United States. We are excited to be supporting such a top-tier event from the inception that will surely only continue to grow annually," said **Pabst Blue Ribbon Co-CEOs and Principals Evan and Daren Metropoulos**.

"The Atlantic Cup, the premier Class 40 sailing event in the United States, prides itself on its accessibility to competitors and fans alike and we are thrilled that Pabst Blue Ribbon, which signifies providing a quality product to a mass audience, has come aboard as our official beer sponsor," said **Hugh Piggin, Manuka Sports Event Management Founder and Atlantic Cup Race Director**.

Teams confirmed to compete in The Atlantic Cup include:

#17 Transport Cohérence – FRA Benoît Jouandet & Jorge Madden



#30	Initiatives – GBR	Emma Creighton and Rob Windsor
#54	Dragon – USA	Michael Hennessy, Merf Owen (Leg 1) & Chris Museler (Leg 2)
#73	Toothface – USA	Mike Dreese and Ken Luczynski
#85	Groupe Picoty – FRA	Jacques Fournier and Jean Christophe “JC” Caso
#90	40 Degrees – GBR	Hannah Jenner and Peter Harding
#101	Campagne De France – FRA	Halvard Mabire and Miranda Merron
#105	Eole Generation – GDF Suez – FRA	Sebastien Rogues and Jeff McFarlane
#106	Gryphon Solo 2 – USA	Joe Harris and Tristan Mougline
#109	Talan-Bureau Veritas – FRA	Stephane Le Diraison and Jesse Naimark-Rowse
#113	Partouche – FRA	Christophe Coatnoan and Ari Sebag
#115	Mare – GER	Jörg Riechers and Ryan Breymaier (Leg 1) & Charles Euverte (Leg 2)
#116	Icarus Racing – USA	Tim Fetsch and Ben Poucher
#118	Bodacious Dream – USA	Dave Rearick and Matt Scharl

About The 2012 Atlantic Cup

The Atlantic Cup presented by 11th Hour Racing is a dedicated professional Class 40 race held annually in the U.S. with a focus on running an environmentally responsible event. The 2012 edition of the Atlantic Cup starts Friday, May 11th in Charleston, South Carolina and will showcase the top Class 40 sailors in the world as they race a 642 nautical mile off-shore leg double-handed from Charleston around the infamous, Cape Hatteras then north to New York City. Once in New York there will be a brief stopover before competitors start the coastal leg of the race. The coastal leg will take competitors along the same course as the 2011 race: 231 nautical miles, south out of New York to a turning mark off the New Jersey coast before heading north to Newport. Once in Newport, competitors will race a two-day, inshore series with a crew of six. The combined overall winner of both stages will be the Atlantic Cup Champion. The prize purse will be \$30,000, making it again one of the largest purses for sailing in the United States.

#

CONTACT:

Julianna Barbieri	Manuka Sports Event Management	Julianna@ManukaSEM.com	917-693-1656
Jeff Pomeroy	JDP Communications	jpomeroy@jdppr.com	678-471-6590

For more information please on The Atlantic Cup please visit the Website at www.AtlanticCup.org