

**SAILING WEATHER SERVICES  
NEWS RELEASE**

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**Sailing Weather Services  
Helps Round-the-World Sailors Sail Fast, Stay Safe**

WATERTOWN, MASS., November 12, 2005 –AMS small business corporation member Sailing Weather Services is serving as official meteorologist for the 2005-2006 Volvo Ocean Race, providing crucial meteorological information to the competitors as they race around the world.

The Volvo Ocean Race started Saturday, November 12, in Vigo, Spain, and will end in June 2006 in Gothenburg, Sweden, home of race sponsor Volvo's headquarters. Between start and finish are more than 31,000 nautical miles, four oceans, five continents, and some of the toughest conditions an ocean sailor can face.

Sailing Weather Services is assisting race management in keeping the crews safe and competitive by providing a high-quality weather data service to all seven teams while they are at sea. The goal of the project is to supply good quality information for a safe race, and equal information for a fair race.

Sailing Weather Services worked with the race organization to develop a standard weather data package that is provided via satellite to all teams. Data will be sent every six hours to each boat from a secure server located in Volvo Race Headquarters in Southampton, UK. Sailing Weather Services has also helped work through the technical issues involved in delivering near-real-time data to the boats in all their far-flung locations. The project focused on safety, practicality, and speed of delivery.

Information on present and forecasted oceanographic and meteorological conditions along the course will be made available as easy-to-read graphic products, with technical data collected from multiple sources. The sources include NOAA, the U.S. Navy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA).

Once the race starts, Sailing Weather Services will be working to make sure the data is continuously updated and available, as the sailors push the boats to their maximum speed and technical limits 24 hours a day. Because assistance from outside the race organization

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is prohibited during racing, team navigators essentially become their own meteorologists when the boats receive their data packages from headquarters, interpreting the information and using it to make tactical and strategic decisions to find the fastest route around the globe.

"Given the complexity of the weather, interpreting meteorological data is a challenge in the best conditions — but when you consider working at a desk that's moving at over 20 knots while bouncing violently back and forth through a very loud, cold, and wet environment, the challenges multiply exponentially," explains Jennifer Lilly, Meteorologist with Sailing Weather Services.

She continues, "Add this to the fact that the navigators are sailors first and meteorologists only by necessity, and it's easy to understand why it's so important that they get the information they're expecting in a standard, clear, and easy-to-use format."

Chris Bedford, Chief Meteorologist for Sailing Weather Services, previously served as team meteorologist for Illbruck Challenge, winner of the 2001-2002 Volvo Ocean Race. He is excited to be participating in the race at a broader level this time around. "The race navigators on all of the teams will be relying 24-7 on the data packages we prepare. They'll be poring over the data we send, hoping to find that extra edge that will give them a leap over the competition. I'm looking forward to watching the intellectual race between the navigators as much as the physical race between boats and crews in the extreme conditions they'll confront."

Bedford is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist and the current President of the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists. Jennifer Lilly is an experienced ocean sailor and recently received her Masters Degree in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from McGill University.

Sailing Weather Services is located in Watertown, Mass. Founded in 1998, the company provides weather consulting and forecast services to sailors, adventurers, and the wind power industry. Sailing Weather Services has assisted participants in hundreds of competitions world-wide, producing thousands of forecasts. In addition to operational forecasting, services include custom weather training courses, historical weather analyses for yacht design, strategic review and adventure planning. More information is available at <http://www.sailwx.com>.

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