News Release

HUGO BOSS racing yacht all in black due to functional pigments made by BASF

- **BASF now official partner of Alex Thomson Racing**
- **Launch of the first entirely black IMOCA 60 sailing yacht in the world made possible by functional pigments with heat-reflecting properties**
- **BASF coating technology based on Paliogen® and Sicopal® pigments**

Whether the new racing yacht of the fashion house HUGO BOSS is going to be the fastest sailing boat in the world is yet to be seen. But one thing is certain: skippers and sailing fans around the world will not be able to ignore this state-of-the-art yacht. Alex Thomson Racing's new IMOCA 60 racing yacht – also sponsored by the premium automobile brand Mercedes-Benz – is the first entirely black IMOCA 60 yacht in the world. This was made possible by painting the deck with a coating developed by BASF, which is based on the functional pigments made by the company. The yacht, skippered by leading British sailor Alex Thomson, will compete in its first Ocean Masters World Championship Race, The Transat Jacques Vabre, in October this year.

Yachts that feature black sails or a black hull are not altogether new. A deck structure that is entirely black, however, is a novelty because heavy sun exposure tends to heat up the dark surfaces enormously. This can lead to a heat build-up in the cabins below deck, which would make living conditions onboard extremely uncomfortable and can even affect the structural integrity of the composite materials. Hence, it was decided to use the functional pigments made by BASF to formulate the coating. They ensure that surfaces that are painted in

October 6, 2015
P363/15e
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dark colors can remain significantly cooler on hot days as they reflect rather than absorb heat. The ship builders used the special pigments that are sold under the Paliogen® brand, which are transparent for Near Infrared Light (NIR), as well as functional NIR-reflecting pigments from the Sicopal® range.

Reflecting most of the sunlight

The pigments are an innovative solution for solar heat management: through their use, the dark surfaces of the deck reflect a large part of the sunlight that they are exposed to. The sun beams penetrate the base coat whilst the filler below reflects the sunlight and ensures that the temperatures on the coated surfaces as well as inside the boat are significantly lower than they would be if conventional black pigments had been used.

"The black coating of the deck has been made possible by the development of this coating technology based on functional pigments," explains Arno Tuchbreiter, Head of Pigment Marketing for Industrial Coatings at BASF. "Otherwise, the radiation of the sun would lead to an unbearable build-up of heat in the windowless cabin and the interior of the boat. The deck too would become too hot and people would struggle to walk on it barefooted without getting burned."

Great potential in the automotive sector

The paint, based on functional pigments, is not only suitable for yachts and ships, but also highly interesting to the automotive sector. "Therefore, Mercedes-Benz has been involved in the development process at BASF from the very start, and we have conducted extensive testing of this paint on our vehicles. Our intention is to use it on various models over the next few years," says Martin Bremer, Head of Color and Trim Mercedes-Benz Design. Because the vehicle interior heats up considerably less, there is a lower requirement for cooling by the air conditioning system. This will have a particularly positive effect on fuel consumption in countries with high average temperatures, at the same time reducing vehicles' CO2 emissions.

The HUGO BOSS racing yacht, designed by the French company VPLP/Verdier, had its unique black aesthetical design created by Konstantin Grcic, a world famous industrial designer. The yacht was launched in September 2015. “We were delighted to work with renowned industrial designer Konstantin Grcic on this project and we were very keen to ensure we could deliver his creative vision,” says Stewart Hosford, Managing Director of sports consultancy 5 West Ltd. “Working with BASF has allowed us to create a truly unique design that would have not otherwise been possible without BASF’s technical capability and ability to deliver.”

BASF now official partner of Alex Thomson Racing

BASF is now also official partner of the offshore yacht racing team Alex Thomson Racing. The first race of the British sailor Alex Thomson on his new yacht is the Transat Jacques Vabre, a double handed 5,000 miles race from France to Brazil, starting on October 25, 2015. In November 2016, Thomson will set sail in the pinnacle of offshore racing: The Vendée Globe. This race is 26,000 miles long, solo, non-stop, unassisted around the world. BASF and Alex Thomson Racing have signed a two-year partnership, which will include Thomson’s 2016 Vendée Globe campaign. BASF and Alex Thomson Racing will work together on the marketing of the pigments and the development of new design concepts.

About BASF‘s Dispersions & Pigments division

The Dispersions & Pigments division of BASF develops, produces and markets a range of high-quality pigments, resins, additives and polymer dispersions worldwide. These raw materials are used in formulations for coatings and paints, printing and packaging products, construction chemicals, adhesives, fiber bondings, plastics, paper as well as for electronic applications such as displays. With its comprehensive product portfolio and its extensive knowledge of the industry, the Dispersions & Pigments division offers its customers innovative and sustainable solutions and helps them advance their formulations. For further information about the Dispersions & Pigments division, please visit www.dispersions-pigments.basf.com.

About BASF’s Coatings Division

BASF’s Coatings division develops, produces and markets innovative automotive coatings, automotive refinishes and industrial coatings as well as decorative paints.

We operate sites in Europe, North America and South America as well as Asia Pacific. Within this network, we collaborate closely with our customers all over the world. In 2014, the Coatings division achieved global sales of about €3 billion. More information about the division is available at www.basf-coatings.com.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry – and have been doing so for 150 years. Our portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. As the world's leading chemical company, we combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable our customers in nearly every industry to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring nutrition and improving quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF had sales of over €74 billion in 2014 and around 113,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.