

THE SNAPSHOT

The Monthly Newsletter of Project Torpedalo

“Only by setting distant and difficult goals do we truly succeed.”

PROJECT TORPEDALO

Number 11 - November 2010

www.torpedalo.com



CURVATURE GROUP BECOMES MAJOR MACHINING PARTNER

As the design of the boat becomes finalised, and with the signing of the boat construction contract with Norco GRP, it was important for us to agree the other companies that would be vital for the manufacturing stage. With materials suppliers John Burn and Sika already on board, the missing link was to find companies willing to manufacture the moulds which the boat sections will be formed in. To this end, we travelled down to Curvature Group near Oxford on 19th November to meet MD Nick Phelps and his business manager David Seymour. After a fantastically progressive meeting, and a tour of Curvature's extremely impressive facilities, Nick gave us the great news - Curvature will machine a number of the moulds for the boat, including the complex top deck mould.



Norco GRP and Curvature already have a great working relationship, and both have agreed to deal with us as if we were paying customers. We are extremely grateful to Curvature not only for their commitment and generosity, but also for taking the lead in arranging the first meeting of the “Torpedalo Manufacturing Consortium” - the collection of material suppliers, machining companies, composites experts and Norco GRP that will together build the Torpedalo. This first meeting will be on 15th December, and we'll report on it in the next Snapshot.



Mark and Mike with Nick Phelps and David Seymour

REVIEW MEETING WITH SIMON CHALK

On 5th November, we had the pleasure of welcoming celebrated ocean rower and 2011 Atlantic Rowing Race organiser Simon Chalk to Torpedalo HQ. Over the course of the afternoon we reviewed the design of the boat with Simon, talked through our plans for life on-board during the race and clarified a few rules around the equipment we have to take. Fortunately, Simon is very pleased with the design and there are no changes that need to be made. We're hugely grateful to him for taking the time to see us, and for driving all the way up to Crewe (from Devon!). Now we need to get cracking and build it!



Mark and Mike with Simon. Despite appearances, we took this picture on a different day to the Curvature pic!

ONE-YEAR RACE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

Last Saturday marked the beginning of a scary countdown for the project - exactly one year until the start of the 2011 Atlantic Rowing Race! Project Torpedalo has been properly active now for 12 months, and we've achieved a great deal in that time. Mark's designed what we believe to be a fantastically capable craft, we've proven the design in the hydrodynamic towing tank and through rigorous simulation, we've sourced over £100,000-worth of kit and services and we've agreed a great schedule of promotional events for 2011. However, there's still such a long way to go. We now have to complete the detail design, build and fit-out the boat, test it extensively both on lakes and in the sea, and use the project and its publicity to raise our target £250,000 for charity. Not forgetting, of course, training, and training, and training, and....It's going to be an incredibly exciting twelve months - let's hope it goes as well as the last twelve!

Sponsor Update

Computacenter, Lopolight & Shakespeare

As we push to complete the boat design so that manufacturing can begin in January, the race is on to secure the outstanding pieces of kit on our substantial list. We decided we'd try and take delivery of as much of this list as we could before Christmas, so that every item can be digitally modelled and integrated in to the package. To this end, we are grateful to the new support this month of Lopolight and Shakespeare Marine, and to the deal with Computacenter that was agreed earlier this year.



When we're out on the ocean, our contact with our families will be via a satellite phone connection. We also want to update our project website with progress reports and pictures from the boat as often as possible, and so we needed a laptop to connect to the satellite phone to send reports back to shore. Clearly, not just any old laptop would do - we needed something small, lightweight and waterproof. We are most fortunate that Computacenter have provided the perfect solution - a Panasonic CF-U1, which is a tiny but fully capable waterproof handheld PC. Thanks to Computacenter and using our CF-U1, we'll be able to keep everyone up-to-date with our progress on a daily basis.

LOPOLIGHT The lighting system of the boat, both interior and exterior, is vital. We have very little electrical power available onboard - only that generated by our solar panels. So, our lighting solution needed to be LED-based and fully waterproof. We also wanted to have the option of red interior illumination for use at night (to preserve our night vision), and needed an external navigation light capable of being seen from two nautical miles away. We first encountered Lopolight LED lights at the Southampton Boat Show, where the quality of their engineering was immediately apparent. Lopolight make what are surely the finest marine LED lights available, and so we are thrilled that they have agreed to sponsor us with all of the lights we need.



SINCE 1897

While we are privileged to have electronics sponsors in Icom (VHF radios) and Raymarine (navigation equipment), we needed to find a supplier of VHF aerials to make the radio and AIS transponder work effectively. Internet searches confirmed that Shakespeare's range of marine antennas are top quality, and they make exactly what we need - short, sleek aerials that have the right range for us without festooning the roof of the boat with ungainly lengths of wire. Happily Shakespeare are very happy to provide us antennas for the VHF and AIS, tuned specifically for each, and a backup emergency antenna too.

Mentions this month must also go to Canadian company Caframo and British firm Digi-Quick. Caframo are kindly donating a pair of low-power, waterproof fans for the cockpit of the boat. When the weather is fine, we'll have the windscreen of the boat raised upwards to allow fresh air in to keep us cool. However, when wind, rain or the sea state forces us to close the windscreen, the fans will generate some much needed airflow. Digi-Quick have supported us by sending a pair of 12V battery chargers, to be used to keep our waterproof camera and video camera ready for action.

Help Needed

The kit and services still to find

Despite great success with securing sponsorship deals for the project to help us design, build and equip our boat, there are still areas where we need help. Every month we'll show a brief list of the most important goods or services we've yet to agree. If any readers know of anyone who might be interested in being part of the project, please let us know at mike@torpedalo.com!

- Satellite phone air-time
- Boat shipping
- Boat fenders
- Nautical charts

Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you

If you'd like to know more about the project, think you might be able to help or generally just want to say hello, please do get in touch!

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PROJECT TORPEDALO

THE PEDAL-POWERED TRANS-ATLANTIC CHARITY CHALLENGE

Fundraising in aid of:



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Our thanks go to everyone who has supported the project so far. We couldn't be doing it without you!

