

# THE MIRPURI FOUNDATION RACING TEAM

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## RACING FOR THE PLANET

Mirpuri Foundation is "Racing For The Planet" to put Climate Change on the global agenda

The Mirpuri Foundation believes that sailing is a sport that brings people closer to the sea. Through the Mirpuri Foundation "Turn the Tide on Plastic" campaign in the 2017-18 edition of the Race, the Mirpuri Foundation was part of a global movement against plastic pollution – and will now enter a team in the next edition of the event, focused on raising awareness and driving action on climate change.

In recent years we have all watched as extreme weather conditions and rising sea levels have caused great hardship for millions of people around the world. We are told that if we do not take action on climate change, that our planet's surface temperature could rise by three degrees, bringing as yet unquantifiable destruction and suffering to the people and animals that call Planet Earth their home. So that is why the Mirpuri Foundation will be "Racing For The Planet".

**We need to #StopClimateChange**

United Nations states that Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly.

Greenhouse gases occur naturally and are essential to the survival of humans and millions of other living things, by keeping some of the sun's warmth from reflecting back into space and making earth livable. But after more than a century and a half of industrialization, deforestation, and large scale agriculture, quantities of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have risen to record levels not seen in three million years. As populations, economies and standards of living grow, so does the cumulative level of greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment to provide an objective source of scientific information. In 2013 the IPCC provided more clarity about the role of human activities in climate change when it released its Fifth Assessment Report. It is categorical in its conclusion: climate change is real and human activities are the main cause.

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The Fifth Assessment Report also provides a comprehensive assessment of sea level rise, and its causes, over the past few decades. It also estimates cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since pre-industrial times and provides a CO<sub>2</sub> budget for future emissions to limit warming to less than 2°C. About half of this maximum amount was already emitted by 2011. The report found that:

- From 1880 to 2012, the average global temperature increased by 0.85°C;
- Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and the sea level has risen. From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melted. The sea ice extent in the Arctic has shrunk in every successive decade since 1979, with  $1.07 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$  of ice loss per decade;
- Given current concentrations and ongoing emissions of greenhouse gases, it is likely that by the end of this century global mean temperature will continue to rise above the pre-industrial level. The world's oceans will warm and ice melt will continue. Average sea level rise is predicted to be 24–30 cm by 2065 and 40–63 cm by 2100 relative to the reference period of 1986–2005. Most aspects of climate change will persist for many centuries, even if emissions are stopped.

There is alarming evidence that important tipping points, leading to irreversible changes in major ecosystems and the planetary climate system, may already have been reached or passed. Ecosystems as diverse as the Amazon rainforest and the Arctic tundra, may be approaching thresholds of dramatic change through warming and drying. Mountain glaciers are in alarming retreat and the downstream effects of reduced water supply in the driest months will have repercussions that transcend generations.

In October 2018 the IPCC issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C, finding that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, the report found that limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society. While previous estimates focused on estimating the damage if average temperatures were to rise by 2°C, this report shows that many of the adverse impacts of climate change will come at the 1.5°C mark.

The report also highlights a number of climate change impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C, or more. For instance, by 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2°C. The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5°C, compared with at least once per decade with 2°C. Coral reefs would decline by 70–90 percent with global warming of 1.5°C, whereas virtually all (> 99 percent) would be lost with 2°C.

The report finds that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require “rapid and far-reaching” transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities. Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching “net zero” around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the air.

## BACKGROUND

*As the Mirpuri Foundation Racing Team begins its preparations for the upcoming global Ocean Race, we take a closer look at what the team will be seeking to achieve both as leading sportsmen and women and well-informed environmentalists.*

With the promotion of marine conservation as one of the founding principles of the Mirpuri Foundation, the creation of a high-profile ocean racing team was seen as an imaginative and effective means of assisting the Foundation to carry its central message on the real perils currently facing our oceans and sea life to the four corners of the earth.

It was also seen as a means of attracting significant international publicity for the campaign to keep our oceans, and their wellbeing, at the forefront of public consciousness.

With the decision to establish the philanthropic Mirpuri Foundation, President Paulo Mirpuri respect for the ocean was never far away, and the year 2017 the foundation saw the birth of the Mirpuri Foundation Sailing Academy in Cascais, with the purpose to inspire local youngsters to share his passion for the sea and protect it for future generations.

But it was the spectacular success of the first two international ocean sustainability campaigns, the Atlantic Crossing "Save the Ocean" and the Volvo Ocean Race "Turn the Tide on Plastic" campaigns that really sowed the seeds which grew into the Mirpuri Foundation Racing Team.

The Mirpuri Foundation joined the Volvo Ocean Race in 2017-18 as the Race Principal Sustainability Partner as well as the Founding Partner of the "Turn the Tide on Plastic" Boat and Racing Team.

This was a quite successful project. The campaign was about promoting sustainability values in and outside the water. And in particular about the very serious problem of the large quantities of plastic that are ending up in our oceans every day. The campaign sparked a global movement against plastic pollution to restore ocean health, that survived the end of the race. And this is a wonderful and very powerful legacy.

The "Turn the Tide on Plastic" team carried the Clean Seas message, with its clear and simple message to act now against throwaway plastic pollution clearly emblazoned on its hull and sails. The around the world race was already one of the world's most challenging competitions, but the added pledge to run the most sustainable race ever, drastically reduce use of plastics and, in doing so, to change mindsets around the world was something incredible to be involved in. It showed a vision that encompassed the entirety of the plastic problem, from the disposable bottle in a spectator's hand to the tiny microplastic that threatened wildlife far out to sea. The Mirpuri Foundation was determined though to share its vision with the world.

And share it the Foundation did.

Along the way, the Foundation set out to tackle plastic use in the race villages (12 cities across six continents), devised compelling educational programmes, and organised groundbreaking scientific research in some of the world's remotest waters.

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Working in partnership with the United Nations, the Foundation's aim was to amplify the Clean Seas campaign with a view to turning the toxic tide of marine plastic pollution.

And the Mirpuri Foundation saw its efforts pay off. The race's plastic footprint was estimated at 21.3 tonnes, with 17.7 tonnes recovered, including 2.6 tonnes of soft plastics. Water refill points meant around 388,000 single-use plastic bottles were not used and some 20,000 people signed up to UN Environment's Clean Seas pledge.

And, somewhere within that incredible event, the idea to establish the Mirpuri Foundation Racing team finally took shape.

Paulo Mirpuri, as well as being a competitor, he is also a doer. So once he decided to establish a team for the race, it was all hands on deck at the Mirpuri Foundation Racing Team, and so it will remain until his objective is attained. Paulo Mirpuri will do everything that he can to build an aggressive and powerful team with one target in mind: the Trophy.

The Mirpuri Foundation Racing Team will carry the Foundation's messages on marine conservation around the world. Hopefully, all the way to the winner's podium.

## THE LEGACY

The Mirpuri Foundation was the main sustainability partner for the 2017-18 edition of the Volvo Ocean Race, as well as the founding partner for the "Turn the Tide on Plastic" team.

The Mirpuri Foundation founded one of the seven teams competing in the 2017-18 edition of the Volvo Ocean Race. It was named the team "Turn the Tide on Plastic" and associated it with a strong message for ocean sustainability. In addition, the team helped to raise awareness on the United Nations "Clean Seas" campaign.

"Turn the Tide on Plastic" proved to be innovative in regard to the history of the race by promoting fundamental values like gender equality and by including younger sailors on its team. The boat was the only one with a female skipper, was crewed equally with men and women, and was the team with the highest number of crew members under the age of 30.

The team founded by the Mirpuri Foundation was also the only one to compete without a commercial message. Instead it emphasized a purely environmental discourse, making populations aware of the harmful consequences resulting from the use of disposable plastics by taking part in conferences, workshops and beach cleanups in the cities it passed through.

The Mirpuri Foundation was also the Volvo Ocean Race's main sustainability partner. Together, the two organizations implemented sustainability and science programs aimed at helping to avoid that plastics continue to pollute oceans. The joint effort maximized the impact the message had on host cities, while at the same time minimizing any negative impact on the smaller towns they visited. These programs aspired to leave a positive legacy for the future health of our oceans.

Participating in this race opened a new chapter in Portuguese maritime history and had merit in helping to contribute to creating a new generation of ocean sailors. For the first

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time in the history of the Volvo Ocean Race, two Portuguese sailors - Bernardo Freitas and Frederico Melo - were part of a team, competing on board a boat that carried the Portuguese flag in this iconic race for the first time.

The Mirpuri Foundation expects that the 2021-22 race will build on the experience of the previous Race and that results will be even better, and that the Ocean Race will continue to lead sustainability in sport and the Ocean Summits series to expand even further.

And above, the Mirpuri Foundation expects to consolidate the large wave against plastic pollution built during the last race. The public is now much better informed on the perils of plastic and on what each one of us can do to turn the tide on plastic, for a better world.

## THE OCEAN RACE

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### *First Team to be announced for 2021*

*The Mirpuri Foundation Racing team was the first team to be announced for the next edition of The Ocean Race, in a live interview on an online launch event hosted last March in Alicante, Spain.*

*The Mirpuri Foundation learned a lot from its participation in the last Race. One of the lessons learnt is that good planning and execution pre race is very important to have a successful campaign in and outside the water. And this demand enough time.*

The Ocean Race is the longest and most demanding competition in the sport world featuring a communication platform able to reach hundreds of millions of people. The Mirpuri Foundation believes that if it is able to inspire other people, then these people in turn will inspire others. If millions of people are conscious of the direction in which we should be going, and that we really need to change the course of the problems that affect our oceans, then the Mirpuri Foundation can have a huge impact by being the initiator of positive behavior and the power to reach a vast audience.

Since 1973, The Ocean Race has provided the ultimate test of a team and a human adventure like no other. Over four decades it has kept an almost mythical hold over some of the greatest sailors and been the proving ground for the legends of our sport.

The Ocean Race is often described as the longest and toughest professional sporting event in the world, sailing's toughest team challenge and one of the sport's Big Three events, alongside the Olympic Games and America's Cup.

The Ocean Race is an obsession, and many of the world's best sailors have dedicated years, even decades of their lives trying to win it.

The race sits at the intersection of human adventure and world-class competition. Thanks to the work of the Onboard Reporters embedded with every team, fans are given a unique insight into just what it takes to win a race that is relentless in its demands - as teams give everything they have, 24 hours a day, in pursuit of the tiny advantages that can make all the difference.



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The race's concept is simple: it's a round-the-clock pursuit of competitive edge and the ultimate ocean marathon, pitting the sport's best sailors against each other across the world's toughest waters. It's relentless: the importance of winning, the adventure of life on board, the transformative effect on the sailors — all of these combine to give the race its power and depth.

The last edition of the race was the closest in history, with three teams virtually tied, approaching the finish line. After 126 days of racing spread across 11 legs, the winning margin for Charles Caudrelier's Dongfeng Race Team was only 16 minutes. The top three teams were separated by just four points.

A total of 2.5 million people visited the Race Villages during the 2017-18 event, getting a first-hand taste of the action. Millions more followed the action on digital platforms, television and via the news as the race set new high-marks for international coverage.

Two classes will compete in the 2021-22 edition of the race with the addition of the high-tech, foiling IMOCA 60 class adding a design and technical element. The traditional one-design VO65 fleet will race on its third lap of the planet.

Following the success of our ground-breaking and award-winning sustainability efforts in the last race, sustainability will continue to be a core value of the race as we go forward, as we redouble our efforts to restore ocean health and lead, inspire and engage on this critical issue.

The race will start from Alicante, Spain in the autumn of 2021 and finish in Europe in early summer of 2022. There will be up to nine stopover ports.

For now, the following cities are confirmed:

- Alicante;
- Aarhus;
- The Hague;
- Cape Verde;
- Genoa;
- Itajaí.

### The previous edition of the Round the World Race in numbers

Over 2.5 million people visited the Race Villages.

23 female sailors in the race – the highest number ever. 7 Ocean Summits all over the world focused on sustainability themes and the dangers of plastic. Over 2.050 speakers and participants at the Ocean Summits, among them governments, startups and large organizations. 388.000 plastic bottles avoided in 12 stopovers. Over 114.000 children from 40 countries took part in the Education for Sustainability Program. 30 scientific buoys collected data about oceans and climate. 93 percent of the samples collected from the oceans registered the presence of microplastic particles.

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### THE BOAT VO65

The Volvo Ocean 65 Class has been designed, engineered and built to be a high performing and competitive race machine.

The introduction of the One Design Volvo Ocean 65 revolutionised the race, leading to closer competition and ensuring that the race is won on the oceans rather than at the design stage.

In the last edition of the race the VO65 produced record-breaking speeds.

The racing was also the closest in the 45-year history of the event with three teams approaching the finish line of the final leg with an opportunity to win the overall title. The winning margin for Dongfeng Race Team was just 16-minutes after 126 days of racing. The 2021 event will mark the third lap of the planet for the robust VO65 fleet.

### THE MIRPURI FOUNDATION

The Mirpuri Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Portugal, and founded by entrepreneur Paulo Mirpuri with the aim of contributing to a better world for future generations.

With its belief that leading by example is the best way to change mindsets, the Mirpuri Foundation fosters cooperation between legislators, corporations, communities and individuals.

The Mirpuri Foundation acts in six distinct areas: Marine Conservation, Wildlife Conservation, the Performing Arts, Social Responsibility, Medical Research, and Aviation. The foundation's commitment to sustainability is transversal and is reflected in all its activities.

The Mirpuri Foundation is synonymous with technology, research, information and innovation. Allied to these characteristics are the values of integrity, perseverance and altruism in order to better impact the planet.

### THE MARINE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Oceans sustain life on earth, as well as its ecosystems. But oceans are fragile environments, and the fact that all life on the planet depends on them also means that it depends on their fragility. Oceans regulate weather, produce half the oxygen we breathe and absorb one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions, as well as being the source of economic sustenance and well-being for billions of people all over the world. However, this resource once believed to be infinite is fast reaching its limit. We are living in an era of over-fishing, marine waste, acidification and rising sea temperatures. By 2050 sea temperatures may be two to three degrees higher, which will mean the loss of the majority of coral reefs all over the world. Human action, in the form of contemporary lifestyle, is at the center of the massive destruction of one of the planet's most precious assets. However, if humans are the cause of the problem, we may also be its solution.



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The Mirpuri Foundation is conscious of the urgency to protect oceans and is working to alert the general public and global authorities of the undeniable importance in preserving oceans and marine ecosystems, creating awareness among the populations about the threats and respective consequences. The work undertaken by the Mirpuri Foundation is directed at raising awareness but also at defending the environment and nature.

## PARTNERS

### MAIN PARTNER

#### HI FLY

Hi Fly is the largest Wet Lease specialist operating an all Airbus fleet. The EASA and IOSA certified and FAA approved carrier operates a fleet of A320s, A330s, A340s and the A380, exclusively available for Wet Lease worldwide. Wet Lease - the supply of aircraft and crew, maintenance and insurance - is Hi Fly's core business and has been developed with unmatched operational expertise for the last 15 years.

Through the "Turn the Tide on Plastic" campaign in the 2017-18 edition of the Race - where Hi Fly was also involved in the Lisbon In-port Race and stopover, and by painting one of its Airbus A330 with the same livery of the boat - Hi Fly was part of a global movement against plastic pollution, and will now focus on raising awareness and driving action on climate change.

Through its association with The Mirpuri Foundation, Hi Fly conducted the first single-use plastic free flights in the world in 2018, and painted an Airbus A380 with the Mirpuri Foundation "Save The Coral Reefs" livery and an Airbus A330 with the "Turn the Tide on Plastic" livery.

Earlier this year, in conjunction with IATA (the International Air Transport Association), The Mirpuri Foundation and Hi Fly organized the Sustainable Cabin Forum 2019, to bring together airlines, airports, catering companies, manufacturers, regulators and the European Commission to discuss the challenge of single-use plastic and catering waste for the first time in the history of the industry.

Hi Fly has also become the first airline to declare it will be carbon neutral by 2021 by using technology to increase efficiency and reduce emissions and by developing a carbon offset programme with The Mirpuri Foundation.

### OTHER PARTNERS:

#### MESA

MESA is an aircraft line/base maintenance provider based in Portugal, Belgium and Australia. The company is oriented to perform maintenance worldwide on Airbus A318, A319, A320, A321, A330, A340, A380 and BOMBARDIER CL-600-2B16. MESA is a flexible organization with highly trained staff and has several maintenance stations around the world aimed to support the most diverse maintenance requirements whenever and wherever needed.

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**THE  
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Safeport is today the undisputed leader in the segment Business Aviation in Portugal. With a 20-year experience, the company is able to overcome the expectations of the most demanding customers. Safeport is present at Lisbon Airport and with representation at all other airports in the country, namely Cascais - Tires, Oporto, Beja and Faro. Safeport Network also reaches the African continent, with a presence in Cape Verde - Sal Island.

**LSKY**

LSKY is a company specialized in Inflight Catering for commercial and business aviation, based in Lisbon, that covers Lisbon International Airport (LPPT), Cascais Aerodrome (LPCS) and Beja International Airport (BYJ/LPBJ). LSKY is also able to provide high quality corporate catering for company events.

**Cascais Naval Club**

The Mirpuri Foundation Racing Team Headquarters are in Cascais, Portugal, with the backing of the Cascais Naval Club and the Cascais Marina. Located at the heart of the villa, Cascais Naval Club is a prestigious Nautical School in Portugal and the only one to regularly send athletes to participate in the Olympics, where it has competed since 1948.

The Mirpuri Foundation Racing team will be training next door to the Mirpuri Sailing Academy, that aims to train young sailors but above all, to influence citizens to be socially responsible. Sailors are not only aware of the serious problems oceans face, they also act to find solutions. In addition to this, thanks to the support from the Mirpuri Foundation, the Academy has now become sustainable and free of disposable plastics.

**AkzoNobel**

Boat coating was provided by AkzoNobel, a company specialized in the manufacture of paints and coatings. Founded in 1792, and headquartered in the Netherlands, AkzoNobel is present in more than 150 countries and employs over 34.500 people, who produce and deliver high quality products and services.

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