

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **September 13, 2004**

FARR YACHT DESIGN ANNOUNCES NEW TRANSPAC 52 DESIGNS

Four new orders for the Mediterranean to be built for 2005 season.

Annapolis, MD – Farr Yacht Design has recently secured design orders for four new Transpac 52's, to be built in New Zealand and Europe, and launched in time for the 2005 season. Three of the yachts are for clients in Spain and form the core of a new TP 52 fleet forming in the Mediterranean.

"There has been a tremendous wave of interest in the Transpac 52 box rule in the Mediterranean, and we're very pleased to help give some initial shape to this exciting new fleet," said Steve Morris, Vice President of Farr Yacht Design. "We feel the TP 52 box rule will meet the needs of our clients well in terms of providing them with boats which are fast and fun to sail, yet also retain their performance value through a solid class management structure."

The three designs for Spain will be built from the same hull mold at Cookson Boats in Auckland, but may have slight variations in other aspects of their design according to each owner's unique requirements. Two of these clients include Mr. José Cusi, whose skipper is SM Juan Carlos, and Vicente Tirado Jimenez, whose sponsor is Caixa Galicia.

The nascent TP52 group in the Med has already agreed on a mixture of inshore and offshore races for the 2005 season, which includes races in Spain, France, and Italy.

Farr Yacht Design has quickly climbed to the forefront of TP 52 design with the recent success of Makoto Uematsu's Farr TP 52 ESMERALDA in winning the Chicago-Mackinac Race in July as well her class win at the New York Yacht Club's Annual Regatta in Newport in June. This record of success underscores the versatility of Farr Yacht Design's TP52's in both inshore and offshore competition.

"Our third generation of designs will benefit from all our time spent both sailing aboard and watching ESMERALDA and her sisters compete," said Jim Schmicker, Senior Naval Architect. "The owners are committed to rule stability and within the limited range of the TP 52 design space we are creating a design that will have a long competitive life."

While being restrictive on such basic design parameters such as length, sail area, displacement, maximum beam and vertical center of gravity, the TP52 rule does allow some variation in appendages, internal structure, and hull shape.

"It is the subtle changes in these features which have an effect on performance, and which we can use to create designs ideally suited to the needs of each of our clients," said Schmicker.

ESMERALDA, Richard Breeden's BRIGHT STAR, and Michael Brennan's SJAMBOK, the three Farr TP52's launched this season, will join our first TP 52, Karl Kwok's BEAU GESTE, competing in this week's Rolex St. Francis Big Boat Series in San Francisco. This premier inshore series will feature intense TP52 class competition on inshore courses over September 16-19.

As in their Volvo Open 70 design packages, Farr Yacht Design offers for teams interested in a more customized design approach additional design program management services to meet their client's needs. These include construction inspections, sail wardrobe assistance, spar detailing, measurement optimization, and advice on sailing performance and optimized tuning.

For more information on Farr Yacht Design, visit our website at www.farrdesign.com.

For more information on the Transpac 52 class, visit the class website at www.transpac52.org.

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