



## **FARR YACHT DESIGN ANNOUNCES VOLOV OPEN 70 RESEARCH FUNDED AND PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE**

**Annapolis, Maryland (14 November 2003)** – Designers of the last six winners of the Whitbread Round the World and Volvo Ocean Race - Farr Yacht Design today announced they are forging ahead with research and development for the next Volvo Ocean Race and the new Volvo Open 70.

During the month of December they will be testing one-third size scale models of their next generation Volvo Ocean Race designs including a wide variety of appendage configurations. "In order to be as prepared as possible for our future Volvo clients, Farr Yacht Design chose to fund and commence research work in advance of any confirmed design commissions. Teams that partner with Farr Yacht Design will receive direct benefits in both technology and timing as a result of our commitment to advanced research." said Senior Designer, Patrick Shaughnessy. Farr Yacht Design began its research in earnest this past August when they commissioned weather studies, began rule review, developed base designs, race modeling, and other preparatory work. This work, done in advance, enables the decision making process to be accelerated. It is Farr Yacht Design's goal that any team desiring an early start can be building by April of 2004 or sooner given builder availability. It is their opinion this will also give teams the time on the water they need to develop, test, train, and make changes.

Their new Open 60 Design VIRBAC has built up a strong lead in the North Atlantic trade winds area of the TJV race, demonstrating that highly targeted and specific design research is a key to success in yacht racing today. "Virbac's success in the Transat Jacques Vabre race to date is very encouraging for the Farr Yacht Design Team and validates the approach we take toward new and difficult challenges," said Britt Ward, Senior Naval Architect and research team member with Farr Yacht Design.

Farr Yacht Design, Ltd. has earned its reputation over the last 25 years as the world's leading sailing yacht design firm with 40 World Championships and 6 victories in the Whitbread Round the World and Volvo Ocean Race.

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