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**FARR YACHT DESIGN'S VIRBAC-PAPREC FIRST OPEN 60 TO FINISH ROLEX FASTNET RACE**

Plymouth, England – Leading a competitive pack of 13 entries, Jean-Pierre Dick's superbly-prepared Open 60 VIRBAC-PAPREC crossed the finish line this morning at 00:22:13 BST to be the first boat home in their class, and third monohull to finish the race. Among the crew of 5 on board was Farr Yacht Design's Senior Naval Architect Jim Schmicker.

"It was a slow race but the boat showed good pace in the prevailing conditions to stay in the leading group for most of the race and pull out a victory", said Jim.

The winning trophy may, however, prove to be elusive due to a 10% scoring penalty imposed on VIRBAC-PAPREC for having received outside assistance when evasive action was required to prevent her from being swept onto a shingle bank by the strong tidal currents in the Solent soon after the start of the race last Sunday.

Light air conditions dominated this year's race, which is held annually and is one of the sailing world's premier long distance events. After starting off Cowes on the South Coast of England, the fleet of 285 entries headed west out the English Channel, past Land's End, and across the Irish Sea to round Fastnet Rock off the southern tip of Ireland before returning to finish in Plymouth.

"It was a long race but a good experience that will be very valuable as we commence our research and design work for our next generation of Open 60's," said Schmicker.

Farr Yacht Design has received two new commissions for Open 60 designs: VIRBAC-PAPREC 2 from Jean-Pierre Dick, and another new design from Vendee Globe winner Vincent Riou. VIRBAC-PAPREC 1 was built at Cookson Boats in New Zealand and launched in 2003.

Farr Yacht Design is the leading sailboat design firm with a continuous proven record of providing superior designs for racing and cruising customers worldwide.

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