

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **New attempt to break the record for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic Ocean**

The maiden voyage of the Maricuda Atlantic Challenger - The Concorde of the Seas - will be an attempt to secure the Hales Trophy, the Blue Riband of the Atlantic. Cruising at an astonishing 70 knots (80 mph), the designers are confident the new superboat will make the 3000 mile transatlantic crossing in under two days – smashing the current record by 20 hours!

It is the intention of south coast-based Maricuda to launch the Maricuda Atlantic Challenger, in the year of the London Olympics - 2012. Already 10 years in the planning, the 80 metre, twin gas-turbine powered trimaran is a major leap forward in design and engineering technology.



MARICUDA ATLANTIC CHALLENGER

Maricuda's MD, David Aitken, has selected and appointed a top team of engineers and professionals in avionics, hydraulics, communications, systems and controls who will oversee the build of this extraordinary boat at Devonport Yachts in Falmouth.

*"The Challenger has three unique patentable features which represent a revolutionary stage in the evolution of fast craft design. I'm please to announce today that many UK companies are 'on board' to ensure the ultimate success of this exciting project."*

David Aitken, MD Maricuda MSc (Brunel) CEng MIMechE MICE AMRINA

*"There are many fast private boats and many fast commercial passenger ferries that will travel at 40 knots over short distances. But consider the benefits of moving cargo, crew and passengers swiftly and safely at such speeds? This is an excellent commercial prospect for ferry operators, cruise lines, coastal defence organisations, and wind and oil farm operators. The opportunity to launch this vessel with a shot at the transatlantic speed record is an exciting prospect."*

Mark Lello LL.B, BMLA, BMF, Skipper

For more information please visit the Maricuda Atlantic Challenger website:  
<http://www.maricuda.co.uk/the-challenge/>

To arrange an interview with David, Mark or Martin, please contact Martin Spooner on 01202 830036 (mob: 07932 630499) or email: [martin@maricuda.co.uk](mailto:martin@maricuda.co.uk)

Notes for Editors

**David Aitken** is a professional career engineer turned entrepreneur. Maricuda Ltd was formed in 2009 for the purpose of marketing his long list of inventions and original designs related to the marine industry. David has been responsible for the project management and financial control of multi-million pound engineering projects and brings to Maricuda the skill set which fits the current drive to bring innovative marine technology to life and deliver the designs to market.

#### **Martin Spooner**

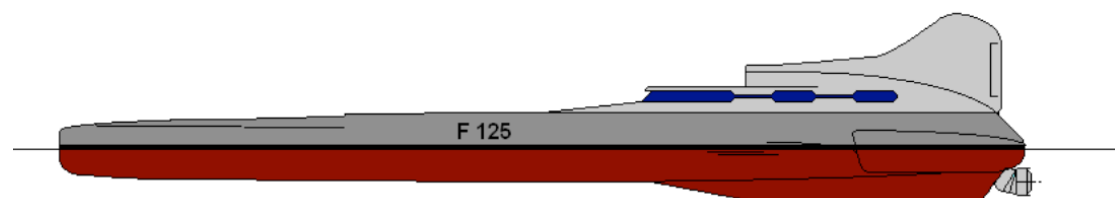
Director of Maricuda and Invest Dorset, Martin is a professional entrepreneur from the hospitality industry, skilled in managing people, projects and time, cost-effectively. A keen sailor for over 40 years, Martin recognises the value of achieving high standards of safety at sea and the huge merits of bringing innovative concepts to life. Martin is the co-ordinator, organiser and administrator behind Maricuda and the Atlantic Challenge.

**Mark Lello** is a qualified Yachtmaster with Commercial Endorsement. A grandson of the Chief Electronics Designer of Concorde he is also a veteran of the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge of 1984. He is Managing Partner of Parker Bullen LLP, a law firm that is committed to the marine industry, including advising designers and owners of yachts, super-yachts and other maritime craft.

**The Hales Trophy** can be won by any type of surface commercial passenger vessel that crosses the Atlantic in either direction in the fastest time. The record stands at 2 days and 20 hours. The 3000 mile journey is from the Ambrose Light, New York to the Bishops Rock off the Scilly Isles.

#### **The London Boat Show**

The Challenge Team will be on the Demon Alert stand (A6, North Hall) at the London Boat Show, Excel from 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011. As our partners they will be providing anti-collision and debris detection alongside security systems for the Atlantic Challenger, these will be on display at the show.



Military 'Fast Vessel' Version of the Maricuda Atlantic Challenger

ENDS