



Le Havre (France), 2021-11-05

The Nantes-based startup D-ICE Engineering integrates the marine weather forecast from Squid (Great Circle)

D-ICE Engineering, launched in 2015, continues to grow by integrating the European leader in marine weather for competitors and cruising and motor boaters. The SQUID weather forecasting and routing solution, developed by Great Circle since 2010, is the ideal complement to the high added value products and services offered by the Nantes start-up.

Back to basics for G erald Bibot, founder of Great Circle and producer of the SQUID software, known by the ocean racing community since his participation in the Transat Jacques Vabre 2007, during which he noticed a significant gap in the availability on board of weather forecasts . He then started by integrating the probabilistic models into the routings. Got a first mission with the Hydropt re ... First conclusive tests ! Thanks to his exchanges with Christian Dumard, the idea of developing a public solution took shape, Squid, a skilful octopus was born! It was necessary to allow access to all models simultaneously, adding satellite observations in order to compare and anticipate alternative scenarios. Both for the safety of the cruiser and for the performance of the competitor, it was innovative.

On its side, since 2015 D-ICE has been developing decision support systems and solutions to optimize navigation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve safety at sea. Based on a solid scientific expertise combining hydrodynamics, control theory, optimization or artificial intelligence, D-ICE's products address the entire maritime sector - from maritime transport and competitive sailing, all the way to marine energies. These technologies are absolutely essential for hybrid shipping propulsion (velic / conventional) and will be on board the Canop e ship, the first modern sailing freighter that will transport the parts of the Ariane rocket from 2023.

With these common values of safety and performance, the convergence of the two companies in the world of professional seafaring, yachting and high-level sports became obvious. The increasing presence of ultimate high technology in competitive sailing but also the enhancement of comfort and safety at sea for the everyday sailor are defining our respective environments. These two visions have come now together to become one!



A new shared adventure has begun, which starts and carries an integrated project of meteorological and scientific solutions at the service of the wider maritime world.

The operational takeover by the young Nantes-based company will allow SQUID to continue developing and perfecting racing weather strategy tools, but also position itself as a valuable partner of merchant vessels with velic propulsion.

A first promising collaboration on this 2021 TJV !

As a demonstrator of the added value of this takeover, D-ICE is proposing to all participants of the Transat Jacques Vabre 2021, a climatological routing tool + state of the art weather forecasts selected within the best producers such as ECMWF... , which we know will meet stringent and specific requirements of all competitors in this race.

Skippers will have via the SQUID platform, integrating the best forecast models, a benchmarked decisions making tool which supplements, based on historical routing, the statistical comparison needed to opt between different routing options. This one has proved its worth during the last Vendée Globe, with Yannick Bestaven winning!

The D-ICE teams are happy to embark the skills and loyal customer base of Great Circle by aiming for a promising future of new innovative solutions.

Maxime Dupuy (D-ICE): "Our rich and original discussions and collaborations with Christian Dumard naturally brought this gathering to reality. Our developments and working methods converge and the meteorological expertise of the Squid team is a real asset for the products we offer. We are very happy to open this new page and will get down to developing efficient and taylorred solutions for sailors, boaters and professionals alike. "

Gérald Bibot (Great Circle): "Knowing that Squid will evolve towards new integrations and will have a new creative force, is really exhilarating. The on-board weather solution was proven, it must now evolve. The feature list is known, both mobile and MAC / PC, it is up to us to hold our promise and release the versions. Technically, intellectually, D-ICE is a dream choice, the team is ambitious and talented. Innovative projects follow one another, the requirements differ, but ultimately the exercise remains ... to navigate smart, quickly, clean. "



Sylvain Faguet (D-ICE): "We are delighted with this new perspective because Squid brings us closer to the yachting and offshore racing sector, which the team is passionate about ... markets that we are already touching a little bit with, between others, the roadbook already on board with [Yannick Bestaven during the last Vendée Globe](#)"

Sofien Kerkeni (D-ICE): "This merger opens up important new perspectives in our objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and securing maritime operations."

Contacts - (all present in the start village of the Transat Jacques Vabre and available for further information)

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About D-ICE

Created by scientists passionate about the oceans, D-ICE Engineering is a deeptech founded in 2015 in Nantes (France) with the ambition to contribute to three major challenges of the maritime industries: reduce the carbon footprint, improve safety at sea and produce clean and decarbonated energy. Propelled by a team of twenty engineers and PhDs in hydrodynamics, applied mathematics, robotics and artificial intelligence, D-ICE develops multiphysics modeling and simulation tools for marine and offshore operations as well as innovative systems and software for navigation, control, optimization and decision support of marine assets and offshore platforms.

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