

## Press Release

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# DMG MORI SAILING TEAM contributing to microplastic research during world yacht race Vendée Globe 2020-2021

DMG MORI and its sailing team DMG MORI SAILING TEAM are contributing to the collection of ocean microplastic during the current yacht race Vendée Globe 2020-2021.

The Vendée Globe is a solo non-stop yacht race, in which skippers sail for approximately 80 days around the globe through the oceans of the Southern hemisphere (total distance of 40,075 km). Yacht sailing is a very eco-friendly sport. A yacht does not produce any pollution, because it only uses natural wind energy and no engine to move. Furthermore, electricity is gained by hydro and solar power generators installed on the boat and drinking water is gained by filtering sea water with a purifier.

Some of the sea areas skippers come across, such as the Southern Ocean, are only rarely used as a ship route and are uncharted to scientists. By collecting microplastic samples in such areas, skippers can make a small contribution to the research of the pollution of our oceans. The collected samples will be analyzed by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC).

DMG MORI will continue to contribute to the preservation of our environment with DMG MORI SAILING TEAM.

### ◆ How the microplastic samples are collected:

- A special filter installed to the yacht collects microplastic during the race.
- The filter consists of a plankton net with 300  $\mu$  m mesh diameter.
- After usage, the skipper preserves the filters for later analysis, documenting the exact time period and sea route.
- After the race the samples are sent to JAMSTEC for research.

### ◆ For further information:

- Official website of Vendée Globe 2020-2021: <https://www.vendeeglobe.org/fr>
- Route of the race: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iD5ZHZZ\\_H-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iD5ZHZZ_H-k)
- Official website of JAMSTEC: <http://www.jamstec.go.jp/j/>
- Official website of Kojiro Shiraishi: <https://kojiro.jp/>
- Contact Public Relations Section of JAMSTEC for inquiries about the conducted research:  
([press@jamstec.go.jp](mailto:press@jamstec.go.jp))



Filter for collection of microplastic  
installed on DMG MORI Global One



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DMG MORI Global One and Kojiro  
at the start of Vendée Globe 2020-2021

Concluded.