

Press Release, Beluga Offshore Sailing Team in the Portimão Global Ocean Race  
07. March 2009

## **Hat trick for Boris Herrmann and Felix Oehme**

### **“Beluga Racer” expands its overall lead by 6.5 Points**

**With a good half-hour lead, Boris Herrmann from Kiel and Felix Oehme from Hamburg have won the intermediate scoring of the third leg of the Portimão Global Ocean Race. At exactly 11:13 h and 40 seconds, they cruised with their Yacht “Beluga Racer” (Class 40) through the “scoring gate” along the way from Wellington/New Zealand towards Ilhabel in Brazil this Saturday (07th of March). The British sailors Jeremy Salvesen and David Thomson aboard the “Mowgli” arrived second, a good hour ahead of the Chileans Felipe Cubillos and José Muñoz aboard the “Desafio Cabo de Hornos”. As a result, the Germans expanded their lead in the overall ranking by 6.5 points. Nevertheless, there are still some 4,800 of the 7,200 nautical miles remaining, and the way will lead them through the Antarctic waters of the Southern Ocean and around Cape Horn.**

Cheers of joy resounded in the cockpit of the “Beluga Racer”, as the crew received the official news from the regatta management this afternoon, confirming the third of their victories as the first crew to pass the scoring gate along a leg. Technical problems in the satellite transmissions of the position reports of the Chilean boat left Hermann, Oehme and the myriads of internet fans virtually in the dark. No one knew for certain which yacht was the first to traverse 130 degrees of westerly longitude.

A strong south-westerly wind with stormy gusts, expected to worsen in the course of this weekend, greeted the participants with maximal speeds of more than 20 knots (nearly 40 km/h). “We had really high seas and thrilling, spectacular surfs along the backside of some of the waves. Some of them towered to staggering peaks. This is not the place for a fear of heights, when you’re falling from the crest of a wave deep into the trough, like a bobsled sliding down into the valley. Then, the bow is pointed straight down – it’s like being in a sport car”, described the skipper Boris Hermann.

Along their end spurt towards scoring gate, even the pursuers gave everything they had. During those tense moments, the distance calculated by the Racetracker ([www.globalracetracker.com](http://www.globalracetracker.com)) towards the port of destination irritated some when compared to the distance remaining to the scoring gate. As the German boat was the furthestmost yacht in the north, the rivals approached on a southerly route along an imaginary line, but they were unable to thwart Boris Herrmann and Felix Oehme in their nautical superiority. “We’re going to slow down a bit, you know, primarily because we want to safely arrive at Cape Horn”, explains the skipper. Afterwards, they anticipate less volatile winds again and thus a new tactical challenge until the arrival at their next destination, planned for the end of March or the beginning of April. The conclusion of the high-sea regatta around the world will be reached, following tow further legs, in June in in Portimão/Portugal.  
(The end)

Intermediate times at the scoring gate of the third leg on Saturday (7th March):

1. **Beluga Racer**, Boris Herrmann/Felix Oehme (Kiel/Hamburg) 11:13.40 h
  2. **Mowgli**, Jeremy Salvesen/David Thomson (Great Britain) 11:48 h
  3. **Desafio Cabo de Hornos**, Felipe Cubillos/José Muñoz (Chile) 12:52 h
- Kazimir Partners**, Lenjohn and Peter van der Wel (South Africa) did not start

Overall rankings in the Portimão Global Ocean Race:

1. **Beluga Racer**, Boris Herrmann/Felix Oehme (Kiel/Hamburg) 26 points
2. **Desafio Cabo de Hornos**, Felipe Cubillos/José Muñoz (Chile) 19.5 points
3. **Mowgli**, Jeremy Salvesen/David Thomson (Great Britain) 16 points
4. **Kazimir Partners**, Lenjohn und Peter van der Wel (South Africa) 6.5 points

High-resolution photos and videos are available in the Mediacenter of the Beluga Offshore Sailing Team at <http://presse.beluga-racer.com>.

The intermediate rankings will be updated every three hours, and you may follow via <http://www.globalracetracker.com>.

Additional background information may also be found via the internet sites [www.beluga-racer.com](http://www.beluga-racer.com) as well as [www.portimaorace.com](http://www.portimaorace.com).

The PR crew of the Beluga Offshore Sailing Team is delighted and ready to answer your questions, including interview questions for the sailors, at all times.