

Press Release

**CLS,
Official supplier of spatial data
to the 2008-2009 Vendée Globe event**

Throughout the entire race, CLS will monitor the sailing boats in the 2008 Vendée Globe event. Each boat is equipped with a "MAR YI" tracking and assistance beacon. The beacons regularly transmit a message providing information concerning the boat's location. Using this tracking system, the race PC can confirm the ranking for each boat, provide the general public with maps, as well as improving the skippers' safety at sea. This year, in addition to this monitoring system, as an exclusive experiment, CLS is providing Vendée Globe with its expertise in processing radar data and modelling ocean currents to detect the presence and direction of icebergs surrounding the Antarctic.

For more than 20 years, CLS has equipped thousands of navigators. From sailing boats to windsurfers to rowing boats, all are equipped with reliable, shock-proof beacons, fully adapted to marine conditions. The beacons transmit a message to the satellite, which, in turn, sends it to a network of ground antenna.

The message is then transmitted to a CLS processing centre that operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is this processing centre that then decodes the skippers' positions and delivers the results to the race PC.

To detect the presence of icebergs and predict their drift direction, CLS has developed a solution, currently still in its experimental phase, which is used to:

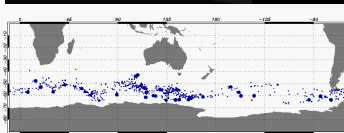
- Detect iceberg populations produced by glaciers in the Antarctic using radar satellite observation data
- Define risk zones
- Model the direction of icebergs and how they are melting according to currents and surface temperatures, to wind levels and the shape and size of the iceberg
- Readjust the direction model using observation data from radar satellites in the Subantarctic zone (around 50° South). Produce (using these radar images) a correct display of icebergs of a significant size (>100m).

CLS is a subsidiary of CNES (Centre national d'études spatiales), IFREMER (Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer) and various French banks. It offers satellite-based environmental data collection and location services and ocean observation by satellite for a diverse range of professionals: institutions, scientists, industrial groups etc. Within this context, CLS has forged close ties with the largest international space agencies, such as CNES, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and EUMESAT (European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites). The company is the global operator of the Argos system and has some 300 collaborators: 225 in the Head Office in France and 75 in its offices and subsidiaries throughout the world.

Right from its very first steps, CLS has been monitoring explorers and adventurers, from Vendée Globe skippers like Loïck Peyron, extreme environment explorers like Jean-Louis Etienne, science travellers like Stéphane Lévin or navigators like Maud Fontenoy.

CLS provides them all with the required equipment and continuously monitors their progress.

For more information, go to course.cls.fr



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