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SkyMate Partners With Earthrace To Provide Communication Services

On the first day of its bid to break the world record for circumnavigating the globe in a powerboat using only renewable fuels, the futuristic-looking Earthrace boat blew its new carbon fiber props to pieces. However, with the help of email services through SkyMate, the Earthrace crew was able to stay in touch constantly with its ground staff to get replacement props and stay on schedule in its attempt to beat the current record of 75 days for the 24,000 nautical-mile voyage.



Running on biodiesel, the Earthrace aims to smash the circumnavigation record by completing the voyage in less than 65 days, and will mark the first time in history that an official world powerboat record will be attempted using renewable fuel.

"Since our props blew apart we have been running 24/7 trying to find props and gear. We have been in constant communication with the Earthrace Committee and are able to keep our race schedule. SkyMate email has been our main form of communication. We could not have done this without it. It has made all the difference in our ability to continue on in this most difficult time of the race," said Scott Fratcher of Team Earthrace.

SkyMate offers full text email with archiving. SkyMate's automated email delivery system features an indicator light alerting the crew that a new email is in the mailbox. The crew does not need to waste time booting up the computer to check email if the light is not on. Also, urgent messages from the crew sent as email can be translated into voice or fax messages to reach those not checking email. Earthrace has a dedicated email address at SkyMate so they will only get the mail they need on the boat - no spam or junk mail.

SkyMate uses the ORBCOMM satellite network of low earth orbit satellites, which provides low-cost, two-way data communications in near real-time around the globe.

Founded by industry-recognized satellite communications experts, SkyMate developed its wireless systems with a mission to make high-quality, reliable satellite data delivery affordable to boaters and the marine industry. Company executives hold several US patents for innovations in satellite design and operation, and have over 25 years of combined experience in design, development, and engineering of satellite systems.

SkyMate systems are available from a network of over 175 dealers across the US and Caribbean. For more information about SkyMate products, visit www.skymate.com or call 1+703.961.5800.

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