

Design Concept

The 105' trimaran Sodeb'ó designed by Nigel Irens and partner Benoit Cabaret, was commissioned by French multihull skipper Thomas Coville, to attempt to break the Single-handed Around the World record of 71 days, set by Ellen MacArthur aboard B&Q Castorama in 2005.

Built by Boatspeed Performance Sailcraft in Gosford, New South Wales, the structural materials were supplied by ATL Composites.

Construction

AIREX® R63 structural foam, used in the construction of the hull and floats, combines very high elongation and excellent bond strength. Extremely damage tolerant, R63 is an exceptional core for dynamically loaded and shock absorbing structures, such as Sodeb'ó.

Other products used in the hull construction included AIREX® C70 and selected densities of BALTEK® end grain balsa products. The combination of core materials were chosen to meet Sodeb'ó weight targets, stress and impact loads and other design parameters.

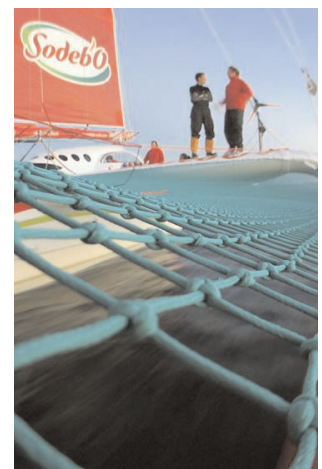
Boatspeed used ATL's unique KINETIX R240/H341 wet-preg epoxy system to optimize the mechanical properties of the carbon laminates. Fibreglass impregnating equipment was used with this long open-time system, followed by cure under vacuum at relatively low temperatures, to meet the weight fraction required in the designers specifications. A selection of TECHNIGLUE adhesives were used for various secondary bonding applications in the construction.

After the hull and floats were constructed, structural fitout began. Custom DuFLEX Composite Panels with nomex cores and carbon skins, were manufactured by ATL Composites and supplied as CNC routed kits for the bulkheads and floors to reduce construction time.



Sodeb'o was launched on June 21 and Coville elected to return to France by the unusual route of New Caledonia, Indonesia, the Seychelles, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Gibraltar, to arrive at Sables d'Olonne in mid September. "I want to get to know the boat on my own, to find out how much effort is needed, especially where it comes to sail handling. It will be a foretaste of what it will be like on the round-the-world record attempt, planned for later in the year."

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| Length | 32.0 m |
| Beam | 16.55 m |
| Draft | 2.9 m |
| Displacement | 12,000 kgs |
| Main Sail Area | 227m ² |
| Launched | June 2007 |
| Boatspeed Performance Sailcraft | www.boatspeed.com.au |
| Nigel Irens Design | www.nigelirens.demon.co.uk |



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