

CAMCLOSURES BRAVE THE SEA

by Ana Lukanc, Public Relations Manager, Adria 4 Ocean Project



In the competitive world of solo sailing, Transat 6.50 is one of the most extreme races around. The boats only measure 21 feet, but they embark on a 4,250-mile race across the Atlantic Ocean – from French La Rochelle to Salvador de Bahia in Brazil (with a stopover in Lanzarote, Canary Islands). It takes approximately one month, and during that time the boats and their skippers are practically cut off from the world. With no means of external communication, event organizers equip them with only safety and satellite beacons.

Among the 72 sailors who entered this year's race were two Slovenians, Andraž Mihelin and Kristian Hajnšek, on the boats Adria Mobil 510 and Adria Mobil 509, respectively. At first glimpse one would think taking part in such an adventure is purely an adrenaline-seeking mission. But that is only a small part of the undertaking.

"Of course one is constantly aware of the risks, but Transat is a lot more than pushing one's self to the extreme," explained Mihelin. "It is foremost a battle with the competition. And in a race that lasts less than a month, we are always trying to get the most out of the boat and ourselves – and beat the competition." Following up on their 13th- and 19th-place finishes last year, Mihelin and Hajnšek took to the ocean armed only with their boats, courage – and a couple of other companions.

On each of their boats were two Pelco ICS200 Series Camclosure integrated camera systems, which were provided by Mobicom, Slovenia. A fixed in the cockpits and on masts, they were there to provide video footage for a documentary film, which is currently being prepared by director Igor Vrtačnik. While the two cameras were there for video-diaries, they also played the roles of companions throughout the race, acting as the closest things to friends these sailors had during their voyages.

"All truth be told, we didn't think the cameras would survive," said Hajnšek. "Of course we hoped they would be able to provide us with those breathtaking, dramatic shots that would convey the situation we were in, but knowing the conditions on the ocean, we had some questions. It wasn't until we sent the video home during a stopover in Lanzarote and received phone calls from amazed friends, that we knew that the cameras were a success. Without this footage the documentary would have been robbed of all the action and with that, the objective point of view - and that is what's essential if one wants to make a good production."

Though not specifically designed for such an application, the Pelco Camclosure integrated camera systems were able to withstand the harsh sea environment, continuing to operate despite the high winds, salt water and inclement weather. Their reliability and high-quality video proved that these systems – just like their skippers – are ready to tackle any challenge, into the wind. 

