

Offshore sailing race

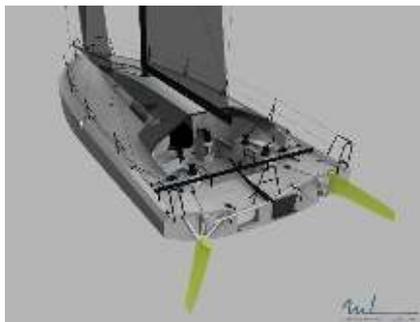
Groupe Berkem, the new Class40 boat being built for offshore racer Edgard Vincens

The offshore sailboat racer Edgard VINCENS has announced he has signed a deal for his new Class40 boat – the *Groupe Berkem* – to be built at the V1D2 shipyard in Caen, France. The eponymous Group, a leader in plant-based chemistry, (head office in Blanquefort - 33290, France) and main partner, will be supporting him throughout his ambitious sporting schedule: twenty-five races between now and 2026, including two Transat Jacques Vabre races (in 2023 and 2025), one Route du Rhum, and an aim to be among the top five racers in the Class40 circuit in 2026.

'Destination Grand Large' 2022–2026: a partnership guided by shared values

A sailor with 25 years' experience of offshore racing in different categories and also a wine merchant, Edgard VINCENS has been preparing the most ambitious project of his career for the last two years. From the outset, Groupe Berkem decided to support him in his new adventure. The Gironde-based company has a twofold aim: to unite its employees around one single Class40 sailor from Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, France, and to offer its range of innovations and industrial expertise in support of his sporting project.

'We're proud to support Edgard in his adventure. The start of this construction project in Caen is a new milestone in this partnership initiated in November 2021. We hope to involve all our group's employees in this thrilling human adventure, to be enjoyed step by step. Edgard and Groupe Berkem share the same commitment to sustainable development and the environmental transition. They also share values that underpin both offshore sailboat racing and entrepreneurial spirit: surpassing oneself, cohesion and performance,' said **Olivier Fahy, Chairman and CEO of Groupe Berkem.**



A next-generation Class40 boat planned for March 2023

With the construction of this boat, the 46-year-old sailor from Gironde is showing his ambition: to complete the Class40 circuit in the best possible conditions, starting with his boat. This boat – the Class40 Version 2, designed by the naval architecture firm Marc Lombard – is known as the best design of this model today. In addition to its modern, ‘stealthy look’, its ergonomic deck layout and scow shape, which is defined by a very rounded nose, engender a significant gain in performance. Furthermore, the first version of the Class40 won the Route du Rhum race back in 2018. This second version benefits of optimisations that allow it to maintain its lead.

Under construction for several weeks in Caen (V1D2 shipyard), the launch of the boat ‘Groupe Berkem’ is scheduled for March 2023. This will be followed by a series of tests and adjustments at sea. Edgard VINCENS will then be able to race his new boat in his next major competition: the Normandy Channel Race (on 4 June 2023).

‘Destination Grand Large’ key figures:



Three-year partnership
Twenty-five races in five countries
26,000 nautical miles (1.2 times around the globe)
Two Transat Jacques Vabre races
One Route du Rhum
Sporting goal: top five racers in Class40 circuit 2026

The boat:

- Length > 12.19 m / Width > 4.5 m
- Draught > 3.0 m
- Weight > 4,580 kg / Water ballast > 2 x 750 kg
- Upwind sail area > 115 m² / Downwind sail area > 280 m²



ABOUT EDGARD VINCENS

Bordeaux-based Edgard Vincens has been a top-level offshore sailboat racer for around twenty-five years. Today he is aged forty-six. He learned offshore racing alongside leading figures in the sailing world. His passion for sailing came from his first outing at sea with his father when he was eight years old. The feeling of gliding and fulfilment at sea was a revelation to him. He took part in his first offshore sailboat race aged thirteen when he crossed the Atlantic alongside Jean-Jacques Granchamp, the technical assistant for the *Paul Ricard*, the boat with which Éric Tabarly broke the record for crossing the Atlantic. When he was sixteen years old, he took part in his first solo regatta. Aged twenty, he became the youngest ever sailor to have competed in the Solitaire du Figaro race. It was an extraordinary experience that changed his life forever. From then on, high-level sailing took up his whole life. He began taking part in many races in different categories of boat each year, winning Champion of France titles and clinching several victories. edgardvincens.com

ABOUT GROUPE BERKEM



Groupe Berkem was founded in 1993. It is an industrial chemistry company that operates in four markets: construction and materials; health, beauty and nutrition; hygiene and protection; and industry. Groupe Berkem is a leader in plant-based chemistry. It seeks to speed up the ecological transition of industrial players in everyday chemical products. The company is made up of four subsidiaries – BERKEM SAS (plant extraction), EUROLYO (customised freeze-drying), ADKALIS (formulation) and LIXOL (resin syntheses). It employs a total of around 165 talents, in its head office (Blanquefort, Gironde, France) and its three industrial sites in Gardonne (Dordogne, France), La Teste-de-Buch (Gironde, France) and Chartres (Eure-et-Loir, France). Groupe Berkem has been listed on the Euronext Growth Paris index since December 2021 (ISIN code: FR00140069V2 – ALKEM).

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