



SVB Spezialversand für
Yacht- und Bootszubehör GmbH
Gelsenkirchener Str. 25-27
D-28199 Bremen, Germany

Press release (mid)

Hugo Picard, the French Classe Mini sailor, is living his dream - single-handedly crossing the Atlantic in a GO-kart of the seas!

SVB GmbH from Bremen becomes title sponsor of Hugo Picard, also known as "The Sailing Frenchman".

The mission!

Hugo will compete in the forthcoming 2021 Mini Transat race in "Les Sables d'Olonne" under the name "SVB Team". SVB will be the main sponsor of this ambitious sailor and thus supports him in his quest to make his dream come true! 4050 nautical miles, 1 sailor, 1 boat and no assistance!

Hugo's hands-on mentality and positive approach is inspiring!

Hugo represents what many sailors and water sports enthusiasts aspire to - passion, freedom and adventure. He's not afraid to get his hands dirty and solves most of the technical problems on board himself.

More than 10,100 fans follow Hugo regularly on Instagram and Facebook. With over 3,700,000 views and 110,000 subscribers on YouTube, his videos inspire people all over the world.

"Hugo is very determined, lives in his van and put all his savings into the project. That has inspired us. We share a passion for sailing and the freedom on the water.

Since 1989, SVB has been a reliable partner when it comes to supporting our customers' wishes. We are able to do this by developing a worldwide delivery network and are now able to ship products to almost any port in the world. Wherever our customers are at any given moment, nothing should stop them from following their dreams and sailing the world with their boat," says Judith Stamann.

The challenge!

The Mini-Transat - One of the greatest challenges in ocean sailing for 44 years!

To this day, the Class Mini has been challenging solo sailors every two years. The transatlantic race demands everything from its participants: strength, stamina, courage, skill, navigational expertise and the ability to think on one's feet.

The race takes place over two stages, which are judged together to decide the victory:

1. Les Sables d'Olonne, Frankreich to Santa Cruz de la Palma, Kanaren.
2. Von Santa Cruz de la Palma, Kanaren to Saint Francois, Guadeloupe.

The boat with the best sailed real-time results wins!

Classification

2 types of boats are classed: prototype and production.

The **prototypes** are a unique category of boats. They are fully equipped, state-of-the-art vessels, but each one is unique. This is mainly due to the relatively open measurement standards. The only really strict specification is that the overall length of the boat must be 6.50m. Due to these open regulations, the prototype class of the Classe Mini has developed into the ideal model to test new technologies and developments. Today, high-performance prototypes are still made of carbon, with daggerboards, ballast tanks, and much more. In a nutshell, a high-tech machine both in technology and racing.

Unlike prototypes, **production boats** have to meet stricter measurement standards. They must be easy to build, simple to handle, inexpensive to maintain and repair. By dividing into two classes, the main idea is to limit costs and make the support accessible to the greatest number, so that owners of production boats can take part in all Mini Regattas. This makes this class the perfect entry-level into the offshore scene. Above all, it is the skill and strategic capabilities of the sailor here that makes the difference, with less focus on technology or money. Nevertheless, production boats can easily reach 18 knots downwind. So they're anything but boring!

To qualify for the Mini Transat, skippers must sail 1000 nautical miles single-handed, non-stop and accumulate at least 1.500 nautical miles by participating in Mini Regattas. For the upcoming Mini Transat 2021 there are 84 starting places in the production class. The first skipper to meet the qualification requirements may register for the Mini Transat. Hugo had already qualified for the race across the Atlantic in July 2020. A particular challenge is not only the size of the boat (6.5 metres) but also the minimalistic equipment on board. Weather routing by satellite and any contact with the land are prohibited during the race.

Aims

The Mini class inspires sailors of all nations, who are just as diverse as SVB's customers. France is SVB's 2nd largest market, so it is not only a good time to increase brand awareness, but also to leave a mark on French sailing and help up-and-coming sailors in the offshore scene realise their dreams.

„We can help you sail around the world, and that's exactly what we want to prove with this project“, says SVB's managing director Thomas Stamann.

Together, we want to inspire people to realise their dreams. Just like Hugo!

Which is why our motto for the project is:

Let's sail the world!