

*Paris, November 13th, 2000*

## **Argos Soditic sponsors a Vendée Globe Challenger**

**Argos Soditic is the first European Private Equity firm to sponsor a boat in the Vendée Globe Challenge. The Group is sponsoring Richard Tolkien's monohull which sailed from Les Sables d'Olonnes on 9th November with 23 other competitors in a round-the-world race considered to be the Everest of sailors.**

Richard Tolkien, the British skipper of "This Time - Argos Soditic", a 60 foot monohull, is a seasoned offshore amateur racer. Winner in his category of the Quebec - St. Malo race in 1984, fifth in the single-handed (monohull) Transatlantic in 1992, he won the Round Britain race in 1998 with "FCP Greenway".

**"This Time - Argos Soditic"** is the ex "Fujicolor III" which has been optimised in preparation for this Challenge.

Richard Tolkien says he is "very pleased with this partnership, which came at exactly the right moment" for him ...

Argos Soditic is delighted to be able to support Richard, who, like the entrepreneurs whom the group accompanies, has the initiative and drive required to take on a challenge.

*Founded in 1989, **Argos Soditic** is an independent private equity partnership with offices in Paris, Milan and Geneva, active in medium-sized MBOs/MBIs in Continental Europe. With aggregate committed capital of €250 million, Argos Soditic has structured more than 30 transactions since its creation and employs over 20 professionals across Europe. The group's portfolio includes companies such as Du Pareil Au Même, Eider, Dorotennis and Oxbow in France, Sparco in Italy, and Maillefer in Switzerland. For more information about us, please visit our website at [www.argos-soditic.com](http://www.argos-soditic.com).*