

For immediate release
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WEST SYSTEM® epoxy sponsoring mainland to mainland Atlantic Four

WEST SYSTEM® epoxy is proud to be sponsoring four friends who are aiming to do something extraordinary: to be the first crew to row non-stop from mainland Europe to mainland South America in a pure class boat.

The normal Atlantic challenge starts in the Canary Islands and finishes in the Caribbean. Instead, Jim Davidson, Justin Coleman, Rob Lucas and Tom Riley will be rowing from Portugal to French Guiana, adding another 800 miles onto an already incredibly difficult challenge.

The team are using a carbon fibre and fibreglass boat, *Trilogy*, which was constructed in 2013, and has already completed three Atlantic crossings.

“Our boat is a pure class rowing boat, so it gains no advantage from the wind,” says Tom Riley. “We would be the first crew to make the journey in such a boat.”

Trilogy holds three rowing positions and a watertight cabin at either end. Power comes from solar panels and is stored in two marine batteries.

“The team at WEST SYSTEM was kind enough to provide us with the materials we needed to fix a new rudder and daggerboard,” says Tom.

The new rudder was made with Western Red Cedar and Sapele used for the leading and trailing edges. The daggerboard was made using laminated African hardwood and both were handmade by Michael Riley, Tom’s father and craftsman cabinet maker for over 50 years.

“We let in a strip of unidirectional carbon fibre on both sides of the daggerboard for additional stiffness,” says Tom. “The rudder also has a ‘yoke’ attached on top with joints that needed filleting.”

The rowing team wanted to keep the rudder clear to retain its beautiful design.

Wessex Resins and Adhesives, who the rowing team came to for advice, recommended WEST SYSTEM 105 Epoxy Resin with 207 Special Coating Hardener because it is very clear and shows off the grain from the wood.

“We’ll be setting off from the marina of Portimao, on the south coast of Portugal,” says Tom. From there, the crew will push towards the Canary Islands where they’ll have to navigate notoriously unpredictable weather. They’ll then track the African Coast before heading west across the Atlantic Ocean to French Guiana. A route accounting for a staggering 3,800 miles.

The team will be following a routine of a rolling two hours of rowing, followed by two-hour break. During that they'll be sleeping, eating, confirming navigation and performing any maintenance required on the boat, potentially using WEST SYSTEM SIX10 Adhesive, which will be stored away in a locker and used as an emergency repair kit.

"We plan on completing the trip in 60 days and during that time we'll be entirely self-sufficient. We'll be taking all our own food and desalinating the water we need for drinking, cleaning and cooking," says Tom.

The crew will raise money for two charities during this challenge: Surfers Against Sewage and Our Blue Light.

A marine conservation charity, Surfers Against Sewage (sas.org.uk) works with local communities to protect oceans, beaches and marine life. Its primary focus is on plastic pollution but it also works on other issues too, including climate change, water quality and coastal development.

Our Blue Light (ourbluelight.com) works to promote the physical and mental well-being of emergency service personnel and their families. Tom is a paramedic and sees everyday how the job affects his colleagues. The charity looks to promote the physical and mental well-being of colleagues and to advance the education of the public to the work of the emergency and essential services across the UK.

The list of materials provided during this project include:

- WEST SYSTEM 105 Epoxy Resin
- WEST SYSTEM 205 Fast Hardener
- WEST SYSTEM 207 Special Coating Hardener
- WEST SYSTEM 405 Filleting Blend
- WEST SYSTEM 410 Microlight
- Glass cloth for the rudder
- Biaxial cloth for daggerboard
- WEST SYSTEM SIX10 Adhesive, in cartridge, to be used as an emergency repair kit. It is self-contained and can be stored away in locker and brought out if required.

Find out more about WEST SYSTEM epoxy online: <https://wessexresins.co.uk/west-system/>.

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Notes to Editors:

A selection of images are available online at <https://maa.agency/media-centre/>

- Wessex Resins and Adhesives manufactures WEST SYSTEM, PRO-SET and Entropy Resins epoxy products in the UK under license from Gougeon Brothers Inc., and distributes these leading brands across the whole of Europe, Africa and the Middle East via a well-respected distribution network.
- Wessex Resins and Adhesives provides international support for the world-renowned WEST SYSTEM, PRO-SET and Entropy Resins epoxy brands.
- Since Michigan boatbuilding brothers Meade, Joel and Jan Gougeon first experimented with the bonding power of epoxy over 50 years ago, the WEST SYSTEM and PRO-SET product ranges have

become the epoxies of choice for private boat owners, boat manufacturers, chandlers and naval engineers throughout the world.

- Wessex Resins has been working in partnership with Gougeon Brothers, Inc. for more than 36 years, manufacturing WEST SYSTEM, PRO-SET and Entropy Resins epoxies here in the UK.
- Whether an epoxy is needed for laminating, bonding, coating, tooling or infusion, the combined breadth of WEST SYSTEM, PRO-SET and Entropy Resins products will provide the solution. WEST SYSTEM and PRO-SET have passed extensive quality testing. They are certified by Lloyds Register and DNVL.

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