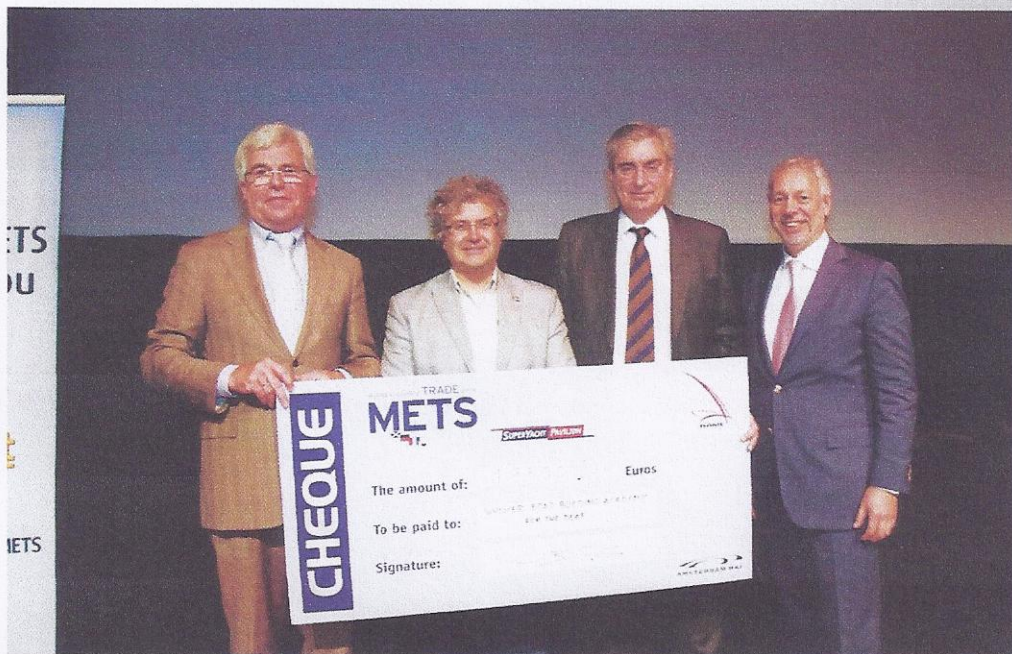


International Recognition



Peter Jacops (second right) was presented with a cheque by Frits Daniel of WBBA Holland; Peter Goosen the South African Ambassador and Theo Lingmont a Director of RAI Amsterdam.

Every year boat builders from around the world gather in Amsterdam to visit the METS - the Marine Equipment Trading Show.

Unique, this show is only open to the trade, and the equipment on view ranges from wooden oars to the latest hybrid engines. This year

there were 1 210 exhibitors, and the show had 18 484 visitors.

Part of the METS is the annual DAME award - or the Design Award Mets. Now in its 20th year, this award is the most prestigious in the marine equipment industry. There are several categories. Each category

has its own winner and the overall winner takes home the DAME award. This year the overall winner was Selden, with a reversible winch. Each participant pays an entry fee of 150 Euros and every year the DAME judges choose a charity organization to whom the money is donated.

For the 20th anniversary of the DAME award the chosen charity was the South African Whisper Boat Building Academy for the Deaf. This charity organization, based in Khavelitsha, has been teaching deaf students the art of boat building since 2004, and has successfully placed many of their students in the boating industry.

The prize money of 19,800 Euros was handed over to Peter Jacops, chairman of the Whisper Boat Building Academy, in presence of Peter Goosen, South African Ambassador in The Hague, Netherlands. This amount was increased to 32,000 Euros by the International Marine Certification Institute, a notified body for the CE marking of recreational craft.

The Whisper Boat Building Academy will use the money to improve their curriculum and continue their education of people with hearing disabilities. Information from: www.metstrade.com and www.wbba.co.za

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New Volvo Ocean Race Trophy

The spectacular new Volvo Ocean Race Trophy was unveiled in Race Headquarters in November in front of representatives from all 10 host ports, the racing teams, local authorities and race sponsors. This event crowns the first night of the Volvo Ocean Race Conference for the 2011 - 12 edition.

As with the Olympic Games, there is no financial reward for winning this 37,000 nautical-mile race around the world, but this beautifully designed trophy symbolizes the glory of winning what is still one of the most extreme challenges in the world of sport.

Mike Sanderson, skipper of *ABN Amro One* and winner of the 2005-06 edition, epitomised this after crossing the final finish line in Gothenburg, when he said: "This is my Olympic Gold, my Mount Everest, my childhood dream."

The trophy, which stands 70cm high and weighs nine kilos, comprises 11 wave-shaped rings, each one representing an edition of the race. A new ring will be added after every future edition. Through the masts supporting the rings, there

is a glimpse of the blue ocean hidden inside. Made of aluminum and silver plate, this trophy represents a modern yet legendary race, which has a heritage of 37 years.

Engraved on each ring, is the year of the race and the route, together with the name of the winning boat and her skipper. The 11th ring will be engraved at the end of the event when it finishes in Galway in the summer of 2012.

