

Press Release

Nantes, 1 February 2021

Yannick Bestaven - winner of the latest edition of the Vendée Globe - had technology on board from Nantes-based startup D-ICE Engineering.

Using historical data from the European Meteorological Centre, D-ICE provided Yannick Bestaven with statistical data and probabilities on the different types of scenario that could present themselves during the race. The rest is history!

Yannick Bestaven has just triumphed in the 9th edition of the Vendée Globe. The start-up D-ICE, a recent graduate of the Centrale-Audencia-Ensa incubator, provided him with statistical data and probabilities on possible scenarios throughout the race. The skipper was thus able to optimize his route based on these statistics, thanks to software on board the Maître Coq IV.

Prior to the race, dynamic visualization allowed the skipper's team to analyze all the optimal routes and understand the conditions, the sails used, the interplay of different environmental data or the impact of a calculation on routing performance. The navigational decision-making tool proved successful during the race!

D-ICE was founded in 2015 by Sofien Kerkeni, a Centrale Nantes graduate specialised in automation and systems control. The objective: to meet the future needs of the blue economy and the digitalization of the offshore industry. Today, the company employs 20 people and offers solutions for hydrodynamic simulations and the control of onboard systems on naval platforms.

About Centrale Nantes

Founded in 1919, Centrale Nantes is a French engineering school and member of the Ecoles Centrale Group. The school boasts excellent rankings: top ten for academic excellence (Le Figaro), 4th engineering school in France in 2021 (L'Etudiant), and top 200 worldwide for engineering (Times Higher Education). Its undergraduate, Master and PhD programmes are based on the latest scientific and technological developments and the best management practices. With strong international outreach, 43% of its student body are international students, representing more than 87 nationalities. Partnership agreements are in place with 178 universities in 48 countries and two-thirds of students follow a double degree programme abroad. At Centrale Nantes, research and training are organised into three key areas for growth and innovation: manufacturing, energy transition and healthcare. With research platforms ranging from digital simulation to prototyping with full-scale models, and a joint incubator - with Audencia and ensa Nantes - which has 20 years of experience in supporting start-up projects, the school has two major tools for innovation and creation, working hand-in-hand with industry. Through a proactive approach of collaborative research between laboratories and industry, Centrale Nantes is developing initiatives for the creation of international chairs, of which there are 15 to date.

More information: www.ec-nantes.fr

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About the Centrale-Audencia-Ensa Incubator

Since its creation in 2003, the Centrale-Audencia-Ensa Incubator has provided support to more than 150 companies. The incubator offers a support programme for innovative start-ups in the Pays de la Loire region. Incubated companies enjoy an ideal environment in which to develop and accelerate their high-potential projects. They benefit from the support and expertise of the three schools of the Centrale-Audencia-Ensa Alliance through a comprehensive combination of training, coaching and facilities. The incubator has a qualified team available to assist project leaders, access to a wide network, expertise in entrepreneurial support and operates in an environment of excellence with the backing of three higher education institutions.

More information: <https://incubateur.centrale-audencia-ensa.com/>

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