

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: America's Cup challenger unveils giant wing

By BERNIE WILSON

SAN DIEGO — First an engine, then an enormous wing.

This really is going to be the most radical America's Cup in the regatta's 158-year history.

American challenger BMW Oracle Racing unveiled what is believed to be the world's largest wing on Sunday, which it will test as a replacement for a traditional soft-sail rig on its monster trimaran.

Complete with flaps, the wing will tower nearly 190 feet above the deck when it's installed this week. It is longer than the wing of an Airbus A380, the world's largest passenger airliner.

"It's an awesome piece of kit," skipper and CEO Russell Coutts said recently after giving The Associated Press a sneak preview of the gigantic foil, which BMW Oracle Racing hopes will give it the edge against defending champion Alinghi of Switzerland.

The wing adds another dimension to an already over-the-top America's Cup, which will feature two of the fastest, most extreme boats ever built for sailing's premier regatta. BMW Oracle Racing's trimaran is 90-by-90 feet, and Alinghi has built an equally immense catamaran.

Both carbon-fiber giants feature engines to run hydraulic systems that trim their sails and move water ballast from one hull to another, a first in America's Cup history.

A long, bitter court fight between the billionaire bosses of the powerhouse sailing teams has led to a rare head-to-head showdown for the oldest trophy in international sports.

The teams met in New York this weekend to try to settle their spat over the venue, with the options for the best-of-three series being Valencia, Spain, or Australia's east coast. They are to report Monday to a New York State Supreme Court justice who has been presiding over the ongoing legal tussle.

Racing is scheduled to start Feb. 8.

Late Sunday afternoon, BMW Oracle Racing peeled back the flaps of the tent where the wing was assembled during the last several weeks. The team originally planned to wheel it to the boat starting Sunday evening, but decided to

do load tests in the tent. Plans are to install it in the trimaran in the next day or two, depending on the weather.

Full-scale testing is expected to begin later in the week.

The wing was unveiled five days after the trimaran's 200-foot carbon-fiber mast fell and broke in two during a sail on the Pacific Ocean. No crewmen were injured.

If the wing works, it will be used against Alinghi.

Coutts, who has an engineering degree, said the lift coefficient of a wing can achieve two to three times the power of a soft mainsail.

"It's pretty cool," said Coutts, who sailed undefeated through three straight America's Cup matches, the first two with his native New Zealand and then for Alinghi in 2003.

Coutts had a falling out with Alinghi boss Ernesto Bertarelli and was fired in 2004. Coutts was barred from sailing in the 2007 America's Cup, then hired by BMW Oracle Racing owner Larry Ellison of Oracle Corp., perhaps adding an extra layer of bitterness to the heated rivalry.

The primary advantage of the wing over a soft sail is that it's easier to control and does not distort, Coutts said. That makes it easier for the trimmers to maintain an optimum aerofoil shape in a wide range of conditions.

The wing includes a built-in carbon-fiber spar. The wing itself is made of an aeronautical film.

Coutts said the sailors can change the characteristics of the wing instantly, "just like an airplane."

BOR RELEASE: BOR 90 testing scheduled to resume next week

The BMW ORACLE Racing team in San Diego is bringing its full resources to bear on the effort to be ready to resume testing on the BOR 90 next week.

The shore crew and boatbuilding team have been working tirelessly to have the new rig platform ready - on schedule - for installation next week, which will allow the team to start a new phase of testing.

“Our crew has basically worked non-stop since we got here (from Anacortes) just under a month ago,” said construction team manager Tim Smyth (NZL).

“We said we'd be ready by next week and we've worked the days and hours required to hit that deadline. It's been a long stretch but the guys are pretty motivated and enthusiastic because it's such a cool project. We're on the final strokes now.”

SAIL WORLD: NewsFlash: First pictures of wingmast for America's Cup Challenger

BMW Oracle Racing have just released the first pictures of the wingmast to be fitted to their America's Cup challenger in San Diego. More photos will be released later today. Stay tuned to Sail-World.

The win is a two element wing, relatively fine in chord section, and controlled by a series of arm positioned on the leading edge of the second element. Two element wings while more efficient than soft sails are not as efficient as three element wings which are the next logical step.

-> **PHOTOS OF BOR NEW WINGMAST:** <http://www.sail-world.com/NZ/NewsFlash:-First-pictures-of-wingmast-for-Americas-Cup-Challenger/63078>

SCUTTLEBUTT:

=> Curmudgeon's Comment: BOR says the wing rig is being looked at as an option, but the team will not disclose yet what the other options are. To date they have tested three soft sail rigs, each one progressively getting longer, but they broke the biggest rig last week.

SAILING ANARCHY: Get Hard

Hundreds of AC Anarchy junkies sat around on Sunday waiting for something special to happen in the BMW/Oracle base in San Diego (the "Dog Pound"), and they were not to be disappointed. Around 4:00 local time our virtual spotters saw movement on various area webcams and began following the boat as she prepared for something new, and less than two hours later, BMW/Oracle

themselves released three pictures and confirmed that the gigantic wingsail was ready to rock and roll. The existence of this wing may be the worst kept secret in the 33rd Cup, though despite hundreds of people knowing about it, the details remained hidden until today - an accomplishment in itself.

We do know that the storage and stepping/unstepping of the rig have been huge engineering challenges, and the next couple of days should prove interesting for the technophile anarchists. Both Da-Woody and Squid were on site tonight, so stay tuned to AC Anarchy for their photos of the people and boat porn from the unveiling of the largest, most sophisticated rigid sail ever constructed. The new wing may raise more questions than it answers, but there will be plenty of time for that later in the week - after we see this thing fly.

If you've already forgotten the parts of a wing sail, here's the primer from Little America's Cup champ "blunted" we ran a couple of weeks ago, and here's the thread where all the action unfolded on Sunday night.

SAILING ANARCHY: RAK and Roll

Today is the day all the America's Cup litigation might come to end. Or not. Either way, there's a lot of open ended questions at the moment.

After SNG won the America's Cup in 2003, America's Cup Management shopped the world for a venue. They made a deal with Portugal, under the auspices of Patrick de Barros. Then suddenly there was no deal, and Valencia hosted the 2007 Cup. This year SNG makes a deal with RAK to host the 33rd Cup, announced with a lot of fanfare. RAK reportedly spent \$120 million to build the facilities for this Cup. Of course, the New York Court recently ruled that RAK was not Deed compliant. Along the way, a sex scandal with the ruler of RAK is revealed. Safe to say, the America's Cup has been a PR nightmare for an emirate that was promised nothing but glowing global press. Now, SNG has announced, in the vaguest of terms that some lucky city on the east coast of Australia will host the next Cup. But they are also appealing the decision on RAK. So, if you were a city in Australia, how much can you believe about anything that SNG is going to say to you about their promise to have you play host to the next Cup?

Does anyone else see a pattern here? SNG seems to like to make agreements with entire nations, or announce their participation without even talking to them, and then back out of the deal. Maybe the Cup will go to Australia. Or maybe not.

If you were the ruler of RAK, or a neighboring member of the UAE, what do you think your reaction would be to all of this? What about the loss of face, to say

nothing of money? Do you just let SNG get away with making your country and region, under your leadership, look like a complete fool on the global stage?

What leverage do you have over SNG? How about the fact that their boat and equipment is still in your country? If you had spent \$120 million on facilities to host the America's Cup, and the magic carpet had been pulled out from under you, wouldn't you want to extract your pound of flesh from the richest guy in Switzerland? So, what's that worth? At least \$120 million, plus. So, what's SNG going to do? Pay up in cash, or agree to race somewhere else in the UAE? If you were some city in Australia, don't you think you'd be considering the consequences of what SNG has to face with RAK before you did a deal with them?

RAK and roll. Or is it more like Lock and Load?

GGYC STATEMENT: Tom Ehman, Golden Gate Yacht Club's spokesperson, talks about the weekend meeting between Société nautique de Genève and Golden Gate Yacht Club representatives:

"Following Friday's hearing at the New York Supreme Court, representatives of the America's Cup Challenger of Record and the Defender met over the weekend.

The talks were cordial but inconclusive; negotiations are ongoing. On Monday November 9, both sides will, however, report to Justice Kornreich on the venue and timing questions addressed in Court on Friday. Separate from these talks, both sides presented evidence to the three former America's Cup jurors on Saturday on the five specific sailing and measurement questions referred to them by Justice Kornreich. The report and recommendations of Graham McKenzie (NZL), David Tillett (AUS) and Bryan Willis (GBR) will be received by the Court on Monday".

EXAMINER.COM: BMW Oracle Racing reveals its secret wing in San Diego

BMW Oracle Racing revealed its long rumored "new technical development" on Sunday, November 8, 2009, when it wheeled a huge wing out of its tent in San Diego.

In the coming weeks the wing will be tested as a replacement for a traditional soft sail now used on BOR 90, the team's 90-ft trimaran being readied for America's Cup 33.

The construction of the wing took place at Core Builders, the team's boat-building facility in Anacortes, Washington, with finishing work completed at the team base in San Diego, hidden under a tent.

In New York City

Meanwhile, the expert panel convened in the New York State Supreme Court to advise Justice Shirley Kornreich is to report to the court today, Monday, November 9, on its finding about the contested rules for the 33rd Race.

Justice Kornreich also will hear from both SNG and GGYC why they were unable to agree over the weekend on a venue for the 33rd race. SNG had proposed shifting the venue from Valencia, where it is not scheduled for February 8, to the East Coast of Australia, although SNG still has an appeal before the Court to hold the match in the United Arab Emirates.

In Nice, France

Two round robin match races between BMW Oracle and the Italian team Azzurra, for the Louis Vuitton Nice trophy had to be canceled because of poor weather.

NZ HERALD: Oracle's radical new development

SAN DIEGO - America's Cup challenger BMW Oracle Racing has unveiled what is believed to be the world's largest wing, which it will test as a replacement for a traditional soft-sail rig on its giant trimaran.

Complete with flaps, the wing will tower nearly 58 metres above the deck when it's installed this week. It is longer than the wing of an Airbus 380, the world's largest passenger airliner.

The wing was unveiled five days after the trimaran's 61-metre carbon-fibre mast fell and broke in two during a sail on the Pacific Ocean.

BMW Oracle Racing will face defending champion Alinghi of Switzerland in a best-of-three showdown beginning February 8 for the oldest trophy in international sports.

GIZMODO: Anyone Have A Spare \$US10 Million Racing Yacht Mast Lying Around?

By Jack Loftus

A quick glimpse into the life of a software billionaire: When Larry Ellison's BMW Oracle Racing yacht snapped its \$US10 million mast this week, the helmsman described the event as a "minor setback."

That's \$US10 million for a mast. Granted, it's part of a massive structure that's twice the size of a 747's wing, but that's still \$US10 million for a mast. The Ellison-owned team has two more in reserve, so it's understandable how the helmsman can call the harrowing event "minor" when speaking to we plebeians.

The cause of the mishap is unknown. Weather and stray surfing gadget blog editors have been ruled out, and the team hopes to figure out the real cause and get back to training so they can meet and defeat Alinghi of Switzerland on Feb. 8.