This system includes the satellites, 2 ground reception antenna centres and two data processing centres. The beacons transmit a message providing information concerning the boat’s location every 30 minutes. Using this tracking system, the race PC can confirm the ranking for each boat, provide the general public with maps, as well as improving the skippers’ safety at sea.

CLS, a world leader in satellite-based data collection, installs leak-tight and stand-alone beacons on each boat. Attached to the stern on a stanchion, the beacons transmit a message to the satellite, which, in turn, sends it to a network of ground antennas. The message is then transmitted to a CLS processing centre that operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

It is the processing centre at CLS that then decodes the racers’ positions and delivers the results to the race PC. CLS has particular ties with explorers and adventurers, whether they are skippers like Michel Desjoyeaux, extreme explorers like Jean-Louis Etienne, science travellers like Stéphane Lévin or sailors like Maud Fontenoy.

CLS provides them all with the required equipment and continuously monitors their progress. CLS, a subsidiary of CNES (French National Centre for Space Studies) and IFREMER (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea), is the global operator of the Argos system. The company has 330 employees: 240 in France, and 80 in its offices and subsidiaries around the world.
Virginie Durand
vdurand@cls.fr – 00 33 (0)5 61 39 48 42

Amélie Proust
aproust@cls.fr – 00 33 (0)5 61 39 95 95