

### **PADOVA / GOSPORT, January 2026**

Antal has been selected by the iconic Clipper Round the World Yacht Race to supply critical components for an innovative fourth-generation global ocean racing fleet.

As an Official Supplier, the company will provide a package of winches and deck hardware for a fleet of 12 × 72 foot matched, stripped down, and fully crewed ocean racing yachts.

Named the Clipper RX, the yacht design is an evolution of three previous generations of Clipper Race fleets and is designed to provide its crew with the ultimate race experience.

Only the most robust high-quality components have qualified for inclusion in this remarkable ocean racer which will face some of the most extreme conditions on the planet.

**Enrico GOMIERO, Antal President and CEO:** *«Being chosen to equip the new one-design fleet for the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race with Antal deck hardware is a strong endorsement we value deeply, and a responsibility we embrace with absolute seriousness.*

*The fleet itself is an impressive step forward: a truly modern platform shaped by decades of Clipper Race insight and the broader evolution of ocean racing. In that context, the role of deck hardware is critical. When crews are operating day after day under sustained loads, salt, fatigue and changing sea states, reliability is not a feature—it is the foundation of safety and performance.*

*For Clipper we have combined proven Antal catalogue solutions with systems engineered specifically for this programme, so every element is matched to its purpose rather than adapted by compromise. Our optimised Winch Pedestal Systems and XT Winches embody Antal's ocean-racing DNA and our philosophy, designed to deliver solidity, confidence and uncompromising dependability when conditions are at their wildest.*

*We are proud to support Clipper on this remarkable adventure and we wish every crew safe seas and fair winds.»*

The company is supplying a complete and carefully selected package of winches and deck hardware. Each component has been chosen—or specifically engineered—to meet the fleet's stringent requirements for strength and extreme offshore use. From "Winch pedestal Systems" featuring an exceptionally intuitive engage/disengage mechanism, designed for safe operation even in the harshest sea and weather conditions, to robust, secure Roller Cleats on deck. XT winches, OPF blocks, tracks and cars are ready to showcase the outstanding performance and uncompromising reliability that have always been a core principle of Antal.

More details of individual components can be found [here](#)

The Clipper Race is unique in that it trains people from diverse walks of life to become competent non-professional sailors. While many take on the full circumnavigation of the globe, covering around 45,000 miles over 11 months to race between six continents.

The Clipper RX design concept is based on 30 years' experience of circumnavigating the globe 14 times and feedback from over 7000 crew participants. Naval architects have translated that concept into a robust, fast and seaworthy, vessel with superior safety features integrated seamlessly into a high-performance ocean racing yacht designed for the extreme conditions faced by Clipper Race crew in this unique biennial ocean race around the planet.

The new design project has been led and coordinated by yachting legend Sir Robin Knox-Johnston (the first person to sail solo non-stop around the world in 1968-69) who established the race operating company Clipper Ventures in 1995 and is now its chairman together with co-founder and CEO William Ward OBE.



**Sir Robin:** *«The Clipper RX design benefits from everything we've learned. It will provide a safe yet exhilarating experience for the crews who take on this unrivalled adventure. We operate stringent quality standards and the critical components we've selected reflect our confidence in their ability to perform in the extreme environments our crews face.»*

**William WARD OBE, Clipper Ventures CEO:** *«I am very proud to see what we've achieved over the last 30 years to take the company from strength to strength, The experience we've amassed is exceptional and has been applied to this major investment in a new fleet that will take us through our fourth decade.»*

The hulls of the 12-strong fleet are being built at a shipyard in Qingdao, China, and will start to be shipped to the UK later this year. They are anticipated to enter service for the 15th edition of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race starting late summer 2027.

The 14th edition of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race is currently on stopover in Airlie Beach in The Whitsundays, Queensland, before starting Leg 5 – The Asia-Pacific Challenge to Qingdao in China, where the new Clipper RX fleet and current Clipper 70 hulls are manufactured.

The Clipper Race will be presenting details of the Clipper RX in public for the first time when Sir Robin Knox-Johnston speaks at the world's largest yacht and watersports show, Boot Düsseldorf 2026, in Germany, on Sunday 18 January at 14.30 CET at the Sailing Centre stage in Hall 15. Further details will be available at the Clipper Race stand C23 in Hall 15 for the duration of the show, 17-25 January 2026.

### **The Clipper RX**

The Clipper Round the World Yacht Race has pooled the experience of its professional operations team and over 7000 crew, who have participated in 14 global race editions since 1996, to create a new bespoke design concept in-house.

The unique event trains non-professional sailors to compete aboard fully-crewed matched stripped-down ocean racing yachts, taking on the full circumnavigation or one or more of eight individual legs.

The new yacht concept has been translated into the final design by the experienced team at Fish Marine Design | Composites (MDC) in Hampshire with hull lines by world-famous British naval architect Nigel Irens, incorporating a new distinctive bow shape.

The Clipper RX features a dreadnought bow and a wider foredeck brings the forestay inboard, allowing full deck access even forward of the outer forestay. The simplicity and robustness of hanked-on headsails is retained.

The wider foredeck design and more buoyant bow will make headsail changes easier for crew who should also remain dryer. Deck protection is enhanced with the addition of deck cuddies at two watertight companionways offering quick access from below to the midcockpit and twin helms.

The cuddies provide on-watch crew and helmsmen more shielding from the elements and water sweeping the decks. The two companionways minimise the need to traverse the length of the deck resulting in even further advances in crew safety.

The design provides for versatile performance both upwind and downwind. Transom hung rudders provide more directive power and are also easier to repair or replace; a break away fuse ensures they will kick up should they hit any ocean debris at speed.



### **Antal**

**Antal's history** is the classic narrative of the finest Italian entrepreneurial genius. Founded in 1977 by **Gastone Carraro**, the company has been able to combine the know-how of a foundry established in 1950 with the precision of applied mechanics and a visceral love for the sea. For more than 45 years, under the leadership of the Carraro family, Antal has been the "forge of champions", developing technical solutions capable of winning the toughest races around the globe.

Today, that same passion continues to live through the synergistic bond between two families, **Gomiero** and **Bruno**, who have chosen to invest in the brand with a shared approach: preserving the company's family spirit while equipping it with a multinational structure.

The strong managerial vision of **Enrico Gomiero** (built over years of experience in multinational groups) and the industrial solidity of **Renato Bruno** (a global player with the Bruno Generators Group) represent the pairing that today increasingly launches Antal in its climb up the global ranks.

With a widespread network in 21 countries and collaborations with the most prestigious Italian and international shipyards, the Antal Group today offers a complete catalogue of deck equipment. From small leisure boats to the most sophisticated superyachts, every Antal component carries with it the story of a company that has evolved from a workshop of excellence to a leading group, without ever ceasing to breathe in the scent of the sea.

**The Clipper Round the World Yacht Race** is a renowned and extraordinary sailing event that pushes participants to their limits. It is unique in that it trains people from all walks of life to become competent non-professional ocean-racing sailors. Each crew is led by a professional skipper and mate. The matched fleet means that performance on the race is down to crew skills rather than design and component advantages. Teams navigate epic sea states, battle unpredictable weather conditions, and experience the thrill of ocean racing.

The race promotes camaraderie, teamwork, and personal growth, offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ambitious individuals to embrace the extraordinary world of offshore sailing. Over 7000 people have participated over the last 30 years. Many completed a full circumnavigation while others have participated in one or more of eight legs of the race. The current route races between major destinations on six continents over 11 months putting around 45,000 miles under the keel of each yacht. It's estimated that the cumulative distance covered by all the yachts in subsequent fleets since the race was established is in excess of 5-million nautical miles.

[www.clipperroundtheworld.com](http://www.clipperroundtheworld.com)

**The Clipper Race fleet** was initially composed of 8 × 60ft boats, with the introduction of an Ed Dubois design fleet of 10 × 68ft yachts in 2005. This was followed in 2013 by 12 × 70ft yachts design by Tony Castro. The new fourth generation fleet will consist of 12 × 72ft Clipper RX yachts – designed by FISH MDC with hull lines by Nigel Irens, based on an original concept developed by Clipper Ventures.

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