



Press Release

Date: January 6, 2009

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AMVER TANKER DISPATCHED TO RESCUE FRENCH YACHTSMAN

Jean Le Cam's Vendee Globe Yacht Capsized Off Cape Horn

NEW YORK – An international search and rescue effort, including a tanker dispatched by the Amver system, is underway to rescue French sailor Jean Le Cam after his sailboat capsized 200 miles off Cape Horn early Tuesday morning.

Search and rescue authorities from Chile, France, and the United States Coast Guard Amver system are working together to coordinate this rescue. Chilean authorities launched a rescue aircraft and, using data from the Amver system, requested the Bahamian flagged oil tanker Sonangol Kassanje change course to Cam's last known position.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea.

Winds greater than 25 knots prevented the tanker crew from lowering their rescue boat. The Sonangol Kassenje, managed by Sonagol of Angola, remains on scene waiting for safer weather conditions. Cam remains trapped in the overturned hull of his sailboat but was able to communicate with fellow racer Vincent Riou.

With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage.

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In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,400 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

Photo of the tanker Sonangol Kassanje with overturned sailboat (credit MRCC Chile):

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/3173422039>

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