



Volvo Web Site may save lives in worldwide race

([PRWEB](#)) January 14, 2001 -- Göteborg, Sweden. January 13, 2000 -- For Immediate Publication Volvo Web Site may save lives in worldwide race If you spend your days and nights surrounded by potential danger and constantly on call for work that demands a high-octane mix of skill and stamina, staying fit and healthy becomes a real issue. Crews on the 'The Volvo Ocean Race', the gruelling round the world yachting event endure some of the world's toughest conditions in sport but fortunately they can call on help in an emergency - either by satellite phone or over the Internet! On the Southern Ocean leg of the Volvo Ocean Race, crews face some of the worst seas imaginable and may be as many as 10 days sailing from the nearest port when illness or accident strikes. E-mail and video conferencing provide the high technology help they may need to survive. British surgeon Tim Spalding explains that with the aid of remote medical advice or 'telemedicine', delivered via satellite communications, crews can treat themselves until they can reach specialist help. 'Most things can be solved with antibiotics. If you get appendicitis you can last until you get to port with antibiotics and have the operation there. If a rope gets caught around your wrist and you lose a hand there are suturing materials on board such as clips and you can tie it off and we'll talk you through that.' Tim adds that 'There are a variety of ways to communicate. The mainstay is satellite telephone communications using Inmarsat. The crew could either dial me up on my mobile, or reach our base hospital. We'll give the crew immediate instructions and get back with more once we have taken further advice from the appropriate specialist. Or they can talk to us through the Internet by sending an email together with digitised pictures or videoconferencing via a webcam.' He adds, 'the preventative side is very important but Volvo is also helping me as the main medical advisor to develop telemedicine. It is a very exciting area. For more information, please visit: www.volvoceanrace.org Or contact Å

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BACKGROUND The Volvo Ocean Race, formerly known as 'The Whitbread', is the world's premier offshore, ocean race. It will start at Southampton, UK on September 23rd 2001, and cover 32,700 nautical miles, with nine stopovers, and finishes in Kiel, Germany in June 2002. The race is jointly sponsored by Volvo Car Corporation, which is owned by Ford Motor Company, and AB Volvo, which owns Volvo Trucks, Volvo Buses, Volvo Penta, Volvo Construction Equipment and Volvo Aero. Volvo Car Corp. sells over 410,000 automobiles a year in 100 markets around the world.



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