Seahorse
International Sailing

Hold the line – Rod Davis
Bold steps – Leonardo Ferragamo
Dynasty – Germán Frers
Responsibility – Jason Ker
Free thinking – Matteo Polli
Thriving 12s – Detlef Jens

The A-Team
– Tom Whidden
Today we can build pretty much anything (almost) – if the materials are good enough, strong enough and light enough.

To most performance sailors, composite builders reveal their skills in the finished product: a boat that is strong, light and durable at a reasonable cost. They are aware of the trade-offs between these factors but may not completely aware of the details on how clever advances in materials and techniques can be used to optimise the final result.

The specialists at Sicomin, however, are very much aware of this. They are at the forefront of composites technology which helps builders produce structures that are indeed lighter and stronger and still meet their cost targets. Through careful formulations of the chemistry of both resin and hardeners, Sicomin helps to match its products to the specific assembly techniques that builders use and are comfortable with creating the structures they need. This working relationship is critical to optimising the results that benefit both, and ultimately the boat owner who gets the performance that he or she expects.

Sicomin is able to have a broad range and flexibility of products because the company works with an enormous range of composite builders in the aeronautical, commercial marine, transport and military worlds, as well as recreational marine customers. Almost anywhere composites are used, Sicomin has tailored resin solutions to match the builder’s needs, and is a market leader for its resins.

An excellent example is when Sweden-based Candela needed help with building its highly innovative electric foiling Candela 7 powerboat, regarded as “the world’s most advanced boat” for its simultaneous promise to deliver comfort, style and speed on a 7.7 m long platform that makes full use of eco-friendly electric technology. The Candela 7 has a maximum speed of 30kts, efficient cruising at 19-23kts and a maximum speed of 30kts. Candela CEO Gustav Hasselström said: “We helped Candela reach their goals with the development and use of our 1710 high-performance resin matched with their choice of carbon fibre,” said Sicomin’s Marc Denjean.

“We did a lot of testing with Sicomin on our infusion process to determine the right combinations of resin and carbon fibre,” said Candela CEO Gustav Hasselström. “We could adjust the working time and cure rate to match their process and help optimise the infusion and post-curing time and temperature they needed. The overall result was a boat which came in at about 240kg, thereby allowing them to use a 230kg battery pack for greater power and range.”

“Candela 1710 delivers this performance. And finally, Sicomin’s companion epoxy adhesive product Isobond SR7100TH has proven perfect for bonding together the constituent parts of the Candela 7, whether in thin or thick beads. SR7100TH has adjustable working times to match the production process, which means it is user-friendly in application and not prone to micro-cracking in long-term fatigue testing.”

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