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Headline News

The Curtain Falls

Final Prizes Awarded

Crews Scatter Tomorrow



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St Malo, France -- 29 Aug 2001 20:35 GMT Crews, support staff and the people who made up this grand event gathered this evening in the Palais de Grande Large in St Malo to honour those who took part in the first *EDS Atlantic Challenge*.

Children and parents joined the group as the Moet et Chandon champagne flowed freely and guests mingled in the large room, made festive by dozens of blue, yellow and white balloons and the colourful crew shirts.

Master of Ceremonies Richard Simmons introduced First Deputy Mayor Henri Jean Lebeau, who welcomed the crews back to St Malo. The deputy mayor then turned the microphone over to Sir Chay Blyth, founder of the Challenge Business and Gordon Moultrie, vice president of EMEA, the European division of EDS.

The canned speeches went by the board as Moultrie presented the now-traditional bottle of grappa to *FILA*, the runners up for the Leg 5 Communications Award. A dinner for the full crew at their favourite restaurant in St Malo went to Nick Moloney and *Kingfisher*.

The First Deputy Mayor and Francis Jubert presented all the crews with medals from the city, before presenting *ECOVER*, *Sill Plein Fruit* and *Kingfisher* with the third, second and first prizes, respectively, for Leg 5.

FILA was also honoured separately for her astounding 445-mile run, just 21 miles shy of the record 467.5 set by Bernard Stamm.

Moultrie used the ceremony to announce that EDS would continue supporting the event. His announcement was met with cheers from the entire room, first in English and then in French. He also said St Malo would continue to be home port to the *EDS Atlantic Challenge* and thanked the city for its hospitality. Exact details of the next *EDS AC* will be announced at a future date.

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A video -- compiled by APP, the official video production company for the race -- brought cheers and laughter from the gathering, and brought alive the conditions and experiences of the onboard crews.

These lighter festivities were followed by the presentation of the grand prizes to the overall winner of the inaugural *EDS Atlantic Challenge*. Moultrie, the man who took on the sponsorship for EDS, presented the prizes.

There were cheers and tears as ECOVER, Sill and Kingfisher skippers and teams accepted the cheques, champagne and trophies.

The ceremony ended quickly after that as the crews, so elated with their accomplishments, shook the champagne bottles and sprayed their crewmates, the crowds, and anything that was in the way of the stream. Camera flashes blinded the group as hoards of photographers pushed forward to catch the moments.

Tomorrow the boats leave, the crews and skippers leave St Malo, and this *EDS Atlantic Challenge* becomes one for the history books.

Susan Colby editor@edsatlanticchallenge.com

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