



September 26, 2011

BEATING ALL RECORDS FROM MONTECARLO TO VENICE, EVEN IN FUEL CONSUMPTION

The route from Montecarlo to Venice usually means speed, endurance and reliability competitions in order to test hulls, engines and drivers.

During the last years, major champions tried, unsuccessfully, to beat Fabio Buzzi's 1994 record of 23hrs 55mins, with an average of 47 knots.

Sunday September 25th, Mario Invernizzi left Montecarlo aboard his FB Design 48' hull, powered by two FPT Industrial 650 HP engines and set up a new record of 22hrs 13mins 17 secs, with an average of 51.3 knots. His challenge is even more outstanding if considering that both boat and engines are "production models".

On board, besides the driver Mario Invernizzi, an entrepreneur from Lecco (Como Lake), the crew included Antonio Binda, FB Design chief engineer, Roberto Rizzo, IT specialist, and Peter Dredge, a successful English driver from Fabio Buzzi's team, who looked after the fitting of the 48' FB STAB.

Fabio Buzzi's previous record was set up with a similar hull, yet powered by two 20 litres diesel engines that burnt 10,800 litres of fuel. The 9 litres FPT Industrial C90-650 engines, that set up the new record, burnt only 5,355 litres, that means less than half than the previous record, though at a higher speed. This fully Italian result, besides the drivers' skills, highlights the technological supremacy of FPT Industrial engines, FB Design hull and Radice screws.

The record, still under homologation, was set up under the aegis of the Monaco Powerboat Association, as weather issues forced to start from Montecarlo, and by the Italian Association of Official Timekeepers.

FPT INDUSTRIAL

FPT Industrial is the FIAT Industrial company specialized in the design, production and sale of propulsion and transmission systems for on and off-road vehicles, as well as engines for marine applications and power generation. The company employs some 7,500 people worldwide at 9 plants and 5 R&D centres. The

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existence of a distribution network of more than 100 dealers and 1,000 service points ensures FPT Industrial presence in around 100 countries. With an extensive portfolio (5 engine families ranging in output from 50 up to 870 HP and transmissions with maximum torque from 300 up to 470 Nm) and a strong emphasis on research and development activities, FPT Industrial is one of the world's leading producers of powertrains for industrial application.

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FD DESIGN

FB Design is a leading company in research and development of fast boats for professional use, with a sound expertise in advanced composite hulls, engines, transmissions and seats.

In its 40 years' activity, FB Design gained 55 offshore world titles and set up many speed records, often using FPT Industrial engines.

Along with the research activity, FB Design also produces fast hulls for military application sold in 18 countries.

FB Design is based in Annone Brianza (40 Km north of Milan) and hires 40 highly specialized engineers, with a test tank, a lakeshore base and a complete equipment able to develop any kind of prototypes.

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