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Spanish Entry Sets Up Training Base in Lanzarote, Canary Islands

Alicante, Spain, 17 May 2011 - After a few days of light sailing around Alicante, host port for the start of the Volvo Ocean Race 2011-12, Spanish entry Telefónica has set out to sea on the trip to its summer training base in Lanzarote, Canary Islands.

Telefónica's boat was the first new boat to arrive in Alicante, where the In-Port Race will kick off the next edition of the race on 29 October. The first of nine total legs in the race begins a week later on 5 November, as the boats will head off to Cape Town, South Africa.

Team Telefónica had three boats in the Volvo Ocean Race 2008-09, with Telefónica Blue finishing third in the last race. The team has announced Olympic gold medallist Iker Martinez as its skipper for their 2011-12 campaign, which will see boats travel 39,000 miles over 9 months and 10 port stopovers across the world.

Four boats for the upcoming race have now launched in the water during the past few weeks including Telefónica, American-entry PUMA, CAMPER with Emirates Team New Zealand and French team Groupama, which will have its first sail this week out of Lorient, France. Each boat entered has to complete a 2,000 mile ocean qualifier prior to the race.

The city of Alicante has a long seafaring tradition and played host to the start of the Volvo Ocean Race 2008-09, as well as becoming the official headquarters of the Volvo Ocean Race in 2010.

### The Volvo Ocean Race 2011-12

- The next Volvo Ocean Race will start in the Spanish port of Alicante in October 2011 and finish in Galway, Ireland in July 2012.
- The course will include stopovers in Cape Town (South Africa), Abu Dhabi (UAE), Sanya (China), Auckland (New Zealand), Itajai (Brazil), Miami (USA), Lisbon (Portugal) and Lorient (France).
- The first 31,250 nautical-mile race first took place over 37 years ago (as the Whitbread Round the World Race 1973-74), testing the crews against some of the most ferocious elements that man can encounter.
- The 2011-12 race will be the 11th edition and cover 39,000 nautical miles.

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