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PRESS RELEASE

BANCA SISTEMA AT THE SIDE OF CARMINE AND VINCENZO VETRUGNO'S ROUND-THE-WORLD SAILING TRIP

A great challenge where passion for the sea and concern for the environment and sustainability meet in an adventure with a scientific purpose.

Milan, 28 September 2023

Banca Sistema, in collaboration with the University of Salento, is supporting **Carmine and Vincenzo Vetrugno**'s project "**Non-stop sail around the world**", which left the pier of Sant'Eligio in the port of **Taranto** at 5 p.m. on **27 September** after two weeks of farewell and awareness-raising stops in Salento.

The protagonists of this dream and great adventure between the seas and oceans are the two sailing brothers, who for six months (expected return in March 2024) will circumnavigate the world non-stop on board their catamaran "*Double Trouble*", touching the three great capes (Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin and Cape Horn) and sailing 30,000 nautical miles in a **project with a scientific purpose**, in collaboration with the University of Salento; **a human experience attentive to the environment and sustainability** that will help to spread culture and respect for the sea and biodiversity.

During the circumnavigation, Carmine and Vincenzo Vetrugno will collect plankton and neuston samples, as well as water and atmospheric chemistry and physics data, which will then be analysed by researchers and marine biologists from the University's Department of Environmental Biological Sciences and Technologies. During the voyage, a logbook will be kept to record sightings of large floating objects, nocturnal luminescence, cetaceans and seabirds, and images, video and audio recordings will be collected and made available to the public by the University.

"*We are proud to be a partner in this extraordinary sailing project, in which respect for the environment and innovation, two important themes for Banca Sistema, find a perfect synthesis under the banner of sustainability and teamwork*," commented **Gianluca Garbi, CEO of Banca Sistema**.
"*Preparation, including mental preparation, and a great deal of passion are essential qualities to be able to take on great challenges, and Carmine and Vincenzo Vetrugno have demonstrated this even before they set off, accepting the commitment to contribute to scientific research and personally taking care of the refit of their catamaran to make it fit for a round-the-world voyage focused on low environmental impact and energy self-sufficiency through renewable energies*," added **Andrea Trupia, Director of Banca Sistema's Factoring Division**. "*This is why we decided to support them in this project, which allows us to demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable future*."

The **Banca Sistema Group's Sustainability Report 2022**, which has been produced on a voluntary basis since 2020, is available at the following link: ***www.bancasistema.it/sustainability***

To follow the project of **Carmine and Vincenzo Vetrugno "Non-stop sail around the world"** and the project of the University of Salento with information and regular updates **www.unisalento.it/sailing-2023**
To support the project https://gofund.me/dbb29236

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Sailors

Carmine Vetrugno, 40 years old, from Veglie (Lecce), son of a spearfisherman, is a naval engineer, commander of pleasure yachts, serving in the Navy since 2002. He has sailed mainly on the Navy's sailing boats, from the Corsair II to the Caroly, from the Orsa Maggiore to the Capricia and the Palinuro, until he spent almost nine years on the Amerigo Vespucci. He has had the opportunity to sail in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the North Sea. Since 2021 he has been a first level offshore sailing instructor for the Italian Sailing Federation. Sailing around the world non-stop" is "a dream that is finally taking shape and the catamaran "Double Trouble" is its ferryman".

Vincenzo Vetrugno, 32, from Veglie (Lecce), has had a passion for the sea since childhood, passed on from his father. After graduating as an electronics engineer, he spent six years as a helmsman on board naval vessels. Since 2018, he has been applying his technical and navigational knowledge to the realisation of the round-the-world project, strongly motivated by "the pursuit of nautical adventure and the value of environmental sustainability".

Banca Sistema Group

Banca Sistema, founded in 2011 and listed on the Euronext Star Milan segment of the Italian Stock Exchange since 2015, is a financial company specialising in the purchase of trade receivables from the PA and tax credits. The Group is active in the assignment of one fifth of salaries and pensions, both through the purchase of credit portfolios and the direct origination of the QuintoPuoi product. In the pawnbroking sector, the Group operates through its subsidiary Kruso Kapital S.p.A. and the ProntoPegno branded product. The Group, which has more than 100,000 customers, also offers financing products, including current accounts, deposit accounts and custody accounts, as well as other types of services, such as credit management and collection, guarantees and sureties, PA credit certification and electronic invoicing. With offices in Milan and Rome, the Banca Sistema Group is now present in Bologna, Pisa, Naples, Palermo, Asti, Brescia, Civitavecchia, Florence, Livorno, Mestre, Parma, Rimini and Turin in Italy, as well as in Spain and Greece. It employs 291 people and has a multi-channel structure.