



KVH Industries-Sponsored J/24 Class Sailboat Captures 2002 World Championship

August 6, 2002

"There's no reason not to have a Sailcomp on your boat" declares Skipper Brad Read, Three-time World Champion

MIDDLETOWN, R.I., Aug 6, 2002 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- Winning a world title in sailing is often determined by a matter of seconds, and a world-class competitor will use whatever tools are available to gain an edge. In 1982, KVH Industries (Nasdaq: KVHI) introduced the Sailcomp(R), a breakthrough digital racing compass, and sailor Brad Read was among the first to demonstrate the tactical advantages of the compass in international competition. So when Brad proposed that KVH sponsor his entry in the 2002 J/24 Class World Championship in Kingston, Ontario, as "Team Sailcomp," KVH was thrilled to say "yes." On July 25, 2002, Read captured his second world title as a skipper, leading the Sailcomp-equipped "Blind Squirrel" to victory over 61 other competitors from 10 countries.

"On behalf of everyone at KVH, I want to congratulate Brad and his crew on their phenomenal performance in this year's world championships," said Jim Dodez, vice president of marketing. "KVH, which was originally known as Sailcomp Industries, got its start by developing the finest racing compasses in the world for sailors. While our name has changed and our product lines have expanded, we remain committed to providing world-class equipment for recreational and racing sailors. We are very proud that we were able to help Brad and the members of Team Sailcomp capture another world championship."

Sailcomp is the premier digital compass for racing sailors worldwide, offering +/- 0.5 degree accuracy, head/lift, starting timer, and off-course modes, and an ultra-accurate heading sensor to measure wind shifts. Since the introduction of the breakthrough Sailcomp in 1982, the system has been used aboard world-class racing vessels ranging in size from Olympic dinghies to America's Cup contenders. Brad Read estimates that 60 percent of the competitors at this year's world championships were equipped with a Sailcomp.

"There's no boat out there racing that doesn't have a digital compass," explained Read. "However, a great advantage of Sailcomp over the competition is its ability to dampen the movement of the compass when the boat is in motion for greater accuracy. The display is also bigger than anyone else's so it's easy to read. Sailcomp is virtually foolproof, and it's a proven product. There's no reason not to have a Sailcomp on your boat."

Brad Read is currently the executive director of Sail Newport (www.sailnewport.org), and was a member of the 1986 J/24 world championship team, which was led by his brother, Ken Read. Brad won his first J/24 world title as a skipper aboard "Blind Squirrel" in the 2000 world championship competition.

A copy of this press release and 300 dpi, JPG format, press-ready images are available for download at <http://www.kvh.com/Press/pr.asp?id=203&category=DIGITALCOMPASS>.

KVH Industries, Inc., designs and manufactures products that enable mobile communication, defense navigation, and direction sensing through the use of its proprietary mobile satellite antenna and fiber optic technologies. The company is developing next-generation systems with greater precision, durability, and versatility for communications, navigation, and industrial applications. An ISO 9001-registered company, KVH has headquarters in Middletown, Rhode Island, with a fiber optic manufacturing facility in Illinois, and a European sales, marketing, and support office in Hoersholm, Denmark.

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