# Solidarity of seafarers:
# PONANT supports *Use It Again! by Extia*




Romain Pilliard and PONANT Captain Christophe Colaris

When Christophe Colaris, Captain of the PONANT ship *Le Lyrial* saw skipper Romain Pilliard on the quay and his sailing boat *Use It Again!* in a bad way, he immediately made his crew and logistics resources available to assist the trimaran. This act of solidarity so natural to all seafarers turned out to be the start of a new adventure. After a month working on repairs, Romain Pilliard resumed his westabout round the world with Christophe Colaris aboard, as a new team member, and PONANT, as a new partner.

Having made it back to Ushuaia after grounding in Cook's Bay, the trimaran *Use It Again! by Extia* was not in a state to continue its round the world. It was in the Patagonia port that they were welcomed by sailors on *Le Lyrial,* one of PONANT's ships. Alerted to the situation by the rescue team, the crew on *Le Lyrial* swung into action to help Romain Pilliard prepare his trimaran before it was lifted out of the water, an act of solidarity that provided the project with invaluable logistical assistance.

**Christophe Colaris embarks as crew on *Use It Again! by Extia* as far as Papeete**

Fully operational again, today *Use It Again! by Extia* casts off to cross the Pacific to Tahiti, the next port of call on her westabout round the world to raise awareness of ocean protection and to promote the circular economy. And for the next stage Romain Pilliard has invited Christophe Colaris to join as crew. Our Captain is no novice, as he's been sailing since he was ten and already has several transatlantics under his belt. However, sailing on an Ultime class trimaran is an all-time first for him.

*"When Romain suggested I do the crossing with him, I was not immediately convinced. Still, it's quite a big challenge. And then I agreed, as it's an opportunity that won't come around again. To sail the Pacific Ocean this way, it's a sailor's dream"* says Christophe Colaris.

The trip to Papeete will take about 15 days, a chance for the two sailors to strengthen ties: *"Christophe played a huge part in the success of the Use It Again! adventure in Ushuaia. He's a good sailor and even though he is not used to sailing this type of boat, I know I can count on him. I'm happy to share this experience with him. It will be a great adventure for both of us!"* explains Romain Pilliard.

**PONANT's commitment to** *Use It Again! by Extia* **a given**

As the Use It Again! project is totally in line with the company's responsible travel approach and having got to know and understand the project better, PONANT has decided to support the association with funding.

*"We are a company founded by sailors and have always been committed to protecting the oceans. Use It Again!'s ambition touched us in a very simple and obvious way,"* explained Hervé Gastinel, CEO of PONANT. *"After our crew spontaneously went to assist these sailors, we have decided to support the project. We share with Romain Pilliard the conviction that we can do things differently and take on the biggest challenges by limiting our environmental impact. We will be following the next stages of this adventure with great enthusiasm!"*

*Use It Again! by Extia* is expected to reach Papeete at the beginning of the next week, and Lorient in France sometime in July this year.

For more information: *Use It Again! by Extia*

**ABOUT PONANT**

Founded in 1988 by French Merchant Navy officers, PONANT offers a new style of cruises under the French flag with its own concept of sea travel and commitment to promoting sustainable and responsible tourism. Centred around sailing to exceptional and unusual destinations aboard refined design yachts, where lifestyle and excellent cuisine take pride of place, the promise of a voyage with PONANT is that it will be truly unique and authentic.

For more information: www.ponant.com