

Whitbread's space age sparks

Ten of the boats taking part in this year's race are fitted with a compact video system pioneered by BT, to transmit live video pictures worldwide. The system also monitors the yacht's position with pin-point accuracy and transmits weather information – enabling on-board computers to plan the fastest route

Inmarsat satellite

Live or recorded TV link

Weather data

Goonhilly earth station

Race HQ
Southampton

Inmarsat aerial

TV pictures are edited on board, compressed and beamed to London where they are decoded and forwarded to TV stations around the world. A two minute video clip will take 12-24 minutes to transmit