

Monster yachts to contest 33rd America's Cup

After a protracted and bitter court wrangle, the most contentious race in 159 years of America's Cup sailing will be settled only when the massive *Alinghi* and *BMW Oracle* multihulls finally take to the water

DEFENDER: Société Nautique de Genève

Mainsail: 600m² carbon fibre sections made in Nevada. *BMW Oracle* claims this contravenes "constructed in home country" rule



TEAM: Alinghi

OWNER: Ernesto Bertarelli

YACHT: Alinghi 5

SKIPPER: Brad Butterworth NZL

Motor: Powers winches to hoist and trim sails, and move ballast. Although first disputed, both teams now use motors

Displacement: 12,000kg

CHALLENGER Golden Gate Yacht Club



TEAM: BMW Oracle Racing

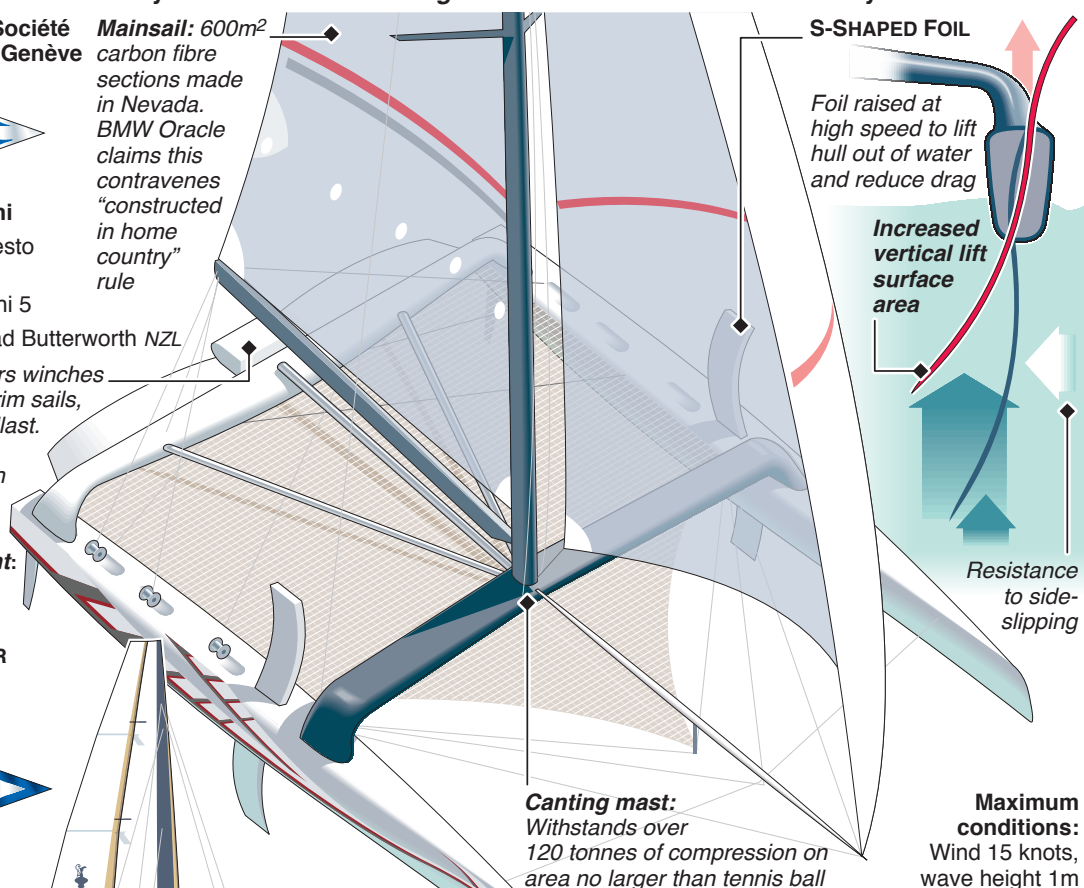
OWNER: Larry Ellison

YACHT: USA17

SKIPPER: Russell Coutts NZL

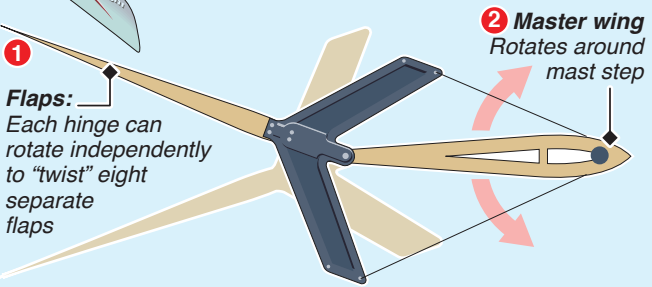
Wing-sail: 57m high, 3,500kg, 625m² rigid carbon-fibre/kevlar structure with aeronautical film skin

Friction reduction: Chemicals discharged into water



SECRET WEAPON

Ability to "trim the wing" – control its shape – makes wing-sail much more efficient than soft sail



COMPARING SIZE

Footprint of each yacht is as big as two basketball courts

