

# Ecartip helps build world's longest trimaran



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**AT WORK**

*"Every measurement had to be within millimeter accuracy"*

*"This boat will win all the races"*

40 Meter long. 47 Meter high. And 23 meter wide. Banque Populaire is building the world's longest trimaran. Called the Maxi Banque Populaire V this groundbreaking ship is being put together with the highest level of accuracy. French surveying company Ecartip from Orange used Topcon's GPT-9001A Total Station to help in aligning all the most important parts, like the main trunk and connectors to the floaters, with millimeter accuracy. When launched the new Banque Populaire V trimaran will be the longest racing trimaran in the world.

"The first operation on this boat was to put together the main body, the trunk", Eric Rabaud of Ecartip explains. "We had to check the exact alignment of the two pieces, before they put the starboard and portside halves of the main boat on top of each other. Everything was measured with Topcon's GPT-9001A and had to be within 1 millimeter accuracy. Each one meter a measurement on the halves was made in real time."

"We began on the construction of the main body on the 12th of September in Cherbourg with the company CDK Technologies; they are building the boat. With the GPT-9001A we could help them to perfectly fit the main parts. For this we made an alignment with the ground and put the boat on the X-axis, then for the Z-axis we could calculate a point. We put the bottom half on a horizontal plane before they put the second half on top of it. This way we could give them the difference between the pieces and the alignment in real time and they could make small adjustments to it backwards and forwards. In the end we got 1 millimeter from the axis so the two pieces were perfectly placed on top of each other. Then it came down to a final check. We did the total measurement in two days and the two sides matched perfectly. When this boat is finished (end of April 2008) it will be used to compete in all the around the world races. This boat plans to win all the races."

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