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SNOWBIRD ARCTIC SCREW MACHINE FIXED AND EN ROUTE TO ALASKA FOR BERING STRAIT EXPEDITION - TEAM PREPARES TO DEPART

London, February 21, 2002 -- Icechallenger, the Arctic expedition attempt to 'drive' across the frozen Bering Strait led by Steve Brooks, is making final preparations for departure. Snowbird6, the custom-engineered Arctic 'screw' vehicle, has been undergoing round-the-clock re-engineering to the screw arms after one of the giant Archimedes screws developed a leak during final water trials on the Thames in mid-January. "We've basically made the arms that support and elevate the screws much more flexible than they were before", said Steve Brooks from his Cadogan Pier offices. "After rigorous 24-hour non-stop testing last week, she was fine and we're confident that Snowbird is ready for the Bering Strait", he added.

Snowbird6 is already on its way by ship to Alaska. Steve Brooks, helicopter pilot 'Q', photographer Jo Vestey, and Celia Carey and a cameraman from the US's Outside Television documentary film channel are preparing to depart London for Seattle and Alaska on February 27. Expedition co-driver and project manager Graham Stratford plus the rest of the support team will follow on March 3rd.

If the expedition is successful it will mark a historic place in history for British exploration in the year of the Queens Golden Jubilee. Expedition photographs by award winning photographer Jo Vestey, will be displayed at an exhibition after the team returns to Britain. A main sponsor is still being sought. North Face has kindly donated arctic survival clothing for the expedition.

For further information see www.icechallenger.com or contact

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ICE CHALLENGER PRESS RELEASES - 2002

ICE CHALLENGER BERING STRAIT EXPEDITION LAUNCHES WITH FINAL THAMES TRIALS FOR ARCTIC SCREW MACHINE

London, January 7, 2002 – *ice challenger* expedition leader Steve Brooks and co-driver Graham Stratford announced today that they are preparing to re-attempt last years bid to be the first to successfully drive across the Bering Strait between Alaska and Siberia. The extraordinary vehicle that will carry them across the treacherous 56-mile ice bridge separating Wales, Alaska from the Siberian coastline is *Snowbird 6*. Final tests will be conducted on the River Thames, the morning of January 15 before the machine is shipped to Alaska ready for the crossing in early March. Snowbird 6, which could be straight out of the next James Bond film *Beyond the Ice*, is propelled by two giant aluminium Archimedes screws designed to bore through, and climb over the sea of ice ridges.

In March 2001 Brooks and Stratford attempted the crossing with Snowbird 5 but the floatation tanks were damaged while climbing back on to an ice ridge and the expedition had to be aborted to make design improvements. The result is a machine with even larger aluminium Archimedes screws which also double as floatation tanks, a major design breakthrough.

‘We believe the design improvements we have made to Snowbird will dramatically improve our chance of success’ said Steve Brooks from his Cadogan Pier office. If successful, Brooks and Stratford will have achieved a feat, which many others have attempted but failed. These include the likes of Ford, Landrover and Fiat, as well as a host of small privateers, often in bizarre contraptions.

‘If we succeed, our next quest is to drive overland from New York to London, which of course is only possible if you can crack the Bering Strait’, added Graham Stratford.

Steve continued: “ We hope our efforts will highlight the British spirit of exploration in the year of our Queen’s Golden Jubilee and help to further connections between the two worlds of America and Russia by fostering a greater understanding of the two remote regions that separate them.”

The *ice challenger* team will depart the UK in early March for Alaska. On January 16 Snowbird 6 will be shipped to Seattle and on to Anchorage and then flown by Hercules to Nome. Steve Brooks and Graham Stratford will drive Snowbird to the most westerly point of Alaska, the small Inuit town of Wales. Across the Bering Strait, only a tantalizing 56 miles away, lies the Russian coastline of the Siberian province of Chukotka (land of the reindeer) and a small town called Lavrentiya. In the middle are the Diomedes islands and countless hazards such as polar bears, sub-zero temperatures, snow storms and a morass of moving ice.



The Ice Challenger web site can be found at www.icechallenger.com and features an 8 minute video clip from last year's Expedition. Press packs and sponsorship information can be downloaded from the site.

A press conference will be held on Tuesday, January 15 at 11.00am, following the final amphibious trials for Snowbird 6 on the Thames. To see the trials arrive at 10:00am at the Savoy Pier, Victoria Embankment, London WC2 to board the press boat, which will follow Snowbird 6 past the Houses of Parliament to Cadogan Pier. The press conference will commence at 11.00am aboard the press boat at Cadogan Pier.

Please R.S.V.P. to veronica@boulton.co.uk by Friday, 11th January, 2002

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