

“ TU DELFT HAS ACTED AS SECRETARY IN A CONSORTIUM FOR A LARGE EUROPEAN-FUNDED PROJECT ON IMPROVING INNOVATION IN THE SAILING SECTOR. IN THIS ROLE, TU DELFT HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE THE TRULY COMMITTED BACKBONE OF THE TRIPLE HELIX CONSORTIUM – AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL INNOVATION.”

*SERGE KATS  
MANAGER TOPSPORT  
WATERSPORTVERBOND*

TU Delft is very strong in the field of water sports engineering, and it has a great deal of knowledge in disciplines such as hydrodynamics, sensor technology and wind and flow predictions. We have carried out many projects together with the Sports Engineering students and their professors, ranging from practical assignments for the Dutch Water Sports Association carried out by student teams on the MSc Advanced Embodied Design Course in the Faculty of Industrial Design, to graduation projects on effective sailing clothing and the technical engineering of a smart coach boat that monitors every aspect of sailing. TU Delft students have shown that they are able to work on their projects in a highly independent and inventive manner, which makes it for us very pleasant cooperation.

**Project consortium**

The Dutch Water Sports Association has worked with TU Delft for over five years, and they have

shown themselves to be strong, loyal partners. One example of this partnership is our taking part – together with other important partners – in a European-funded project to promote innovation in the sailing sector. We see that the enthusiasm of everyone involved in innovation and promising partnerships is always very high to start with. However, innovative developments inevitably involve ups and downs, and many steps are required to convert good ideas, research projects and designs into final products, and then to successfully market those products. TU Delft has turned out to be a partner who understands what innovative processes actually involve, and who is truly committed to applying the long-term vision needed to achieve concrete results.

#### **TU Delft Sports Engineering Institute**

Our experience is that we can present the TU Delft Sports Engineering Institute and its TU Delft colleagues with a wide variety of ideas and dilemmas, and that they will be able to

contribute innovative ideas. They have shown that they take a long-term approach in their partnerships. An advantage of the TU Delft Sports Engineering Institute is that it provides an accessible point of contact with employees who know more and more about the world of sport, who understand what the world of sport needs, and who filter all the requests they receive so as not to overburden the scientists.

#### **The future**

In preparation for Tokyo 2020, we are going to further develop the ideas and projects that we have initiated together, and regarding which we have built up a lot of experience together, to come up with marketable final products.