

TECH STORY 8: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STEERING WHEEL

00:03

Jimmy Spithill, Skipper ORACLE TEAM USA, English

“We have about 10 functions that we're going to have on the hub of the wheel, all different settings on the boat.

In the past, I used to do it with buttons, so instead of doing a twist grip adjustment I would press the button forward or press the button back to change angle of attack. The beauty of a twist grip is that if I need a big adjustment I can give it a lot full throttle.” >>00:22

00:24

Nathan Libby, Electronics Engineer ORACLE TEAM USA, English

So this was the wheel that they used in the last campaign of the AC72. As you can see, it's been stripped out now but there was only button pods all the way around. When we came to Bermuda, this was the first step of evolution from obviously a very large wheel to a much smaller version.

So, we decided to obviously approach BMW. Once we've figured out that the twist grip would have been a good addition, this was the first version of wheel we actually incorporated three twist grips. This, what you see now, the BMW wheel, is an evolution of all you see in front of you.” >>01:01

01:04

Jimmy Spithill, Skipper ORACLE TEAM USA, English

“So, what was developed basically is if I go forward on the twist grip that moves the foil forwards, changes the angle of attack, if I move it back, it adds more angle of attack and the boat lifts up.

01:16

This America's Cup's all about foiling, you know? What we go out and train to do every single day is to try and make the boat never touch the water. We want it to be up on the foils from when the start gun fires to when the finish gun goes and I think the team that can do that the whole way through the race will win the America's Cup.” >>01:33

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