



Luna Rossa: third race against Team New Zealand

Tuesday July 23rd, San Francisco: cloudy skies, 13-15 knots of wind from South West, flat sea, ebb tide 2 knots. Race start at 12.15 local time.

The third match between Luna Rossa Challenge and Emirates Team New Zealand had the Italian team entering the prestart box on port. The Kiwis quickly gained a tactical advantage and crossed the starting line 15 seconds in front, forcing the Italian team to chase.

At the downwind gate Luna Rossa rounded with 1 minute and 2 seconds delay. On the first beat the New Zealanders, at ease also in light conditions, sailed faster than the Italian team and rounded the windward gate 3 minutes and 29 seconds ahead.

On the second downwind leg Luna Rossa attempted to recover the distance by choosing the left side of the course, but was unable to close the gap and rounded the downwind mark 4 minutes and 2 seconds behind. From that point, up to the arrival, the Kiwis increased their lead and crossed the finish line 7 minutes and 14 seconds ahead. The Italian team was therefore considered DNF as per the rule for exceeding the 5-minute delay between the two yachts.

Luna Rossa skipper Max Sirena stated: *"It was disappointing to see how fast the Kiwis are even in lighter wind conditions. We now look forward to testing our new daggerboards in order to reduce the gap and be competitive in the coming races. We remain focused on our objective."*

Today's crew for Luna Rossa Challenge was: Max Sirena (skipper and pitman), Francesco Bruni (tactician), David Carr (pitman/grinder), Pierluigi de Felice (trimmer), Wade Morgan (primary grinder), Chris Draper (helmsman), Xabi Fernandez (wing trimmer), Nick Hutton (bowman), Lele Marino (wing grinder), Manuel Modena (freestyler), Giles Scott (hydraulic grinder).