

Kestrel

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**KESTREL BICYCLES IMPROVES PRODUCTS,
ATHLETE'S RESULTS WITH WIND TUNNEL
TESTING**

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SAN DIEGO, CA, USA, January 30, 2006 – Kestrel Bicycles of Santa Cruz, CA, announces that it has successfully completed aerodynamic testing at the San Diego Low Speed Wind Tunnel. The tests verified the aerodynamic benefits of the company's Airfoil Pro triathlon bike, in addition to finding remarkable time savings for Kestrel's top ranked professional triathlete, Chris McCormack of Australia.

Test runs showed that McCormack, already a multiple champion at every triathlon format and distance, would garner impressive time savings by riding Kestrel's Airfoil Pro triathlon race bike. With winds simulating a 25 miles-per-hour race pace, "Macca" as he is affectionately known in tri circles, would see an impressive one-minute savings for every hour ridden - an equivalent of over four-tenths of a mile. To achieve such savings, without any changes in rider position or componentry used, McCormack was elated. "Mate," said McCormack to Kestrel Product and Marketing Director, Preston Sandusky, "I'm riding this bike in Hawaii next year!" referring to the October 2006 Hawaii Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii.



McCormack at speed on the Airfoil Pro



It's just you and a 25 mph laminar-flow headwind

(Photos courtesy Kestrel Bicycles/San Diego Low Speed Wind Tunnel)

Once the baseline numbers were set, the team - consisting of Kestrel design engineers plus industry experts from triathlon and aero-bike retailer Nytro.com, aero bar and equipment supplier Profile Design, and the Low Speed Wind Tunnel staff – set out to find the most aerodynamically efficient mix of components and rider position to support McCormack's quest for speed. Again huge advances were made, with mild position changes resulting in another minute-per-hour saved, and the most aggressive aero stance producing an amazing two-minute advantage per hour ridden. "This information is invaluable in giving our athletes the competitive edge and in making better, faster products," said Kestrel's Sandusky. "Combining the aerodynamic advantages of the

Airfoil Pro bike with tunnel-proven position adjustments, we are confident that Macca and our other sponsored pro's will see a two-plus minute per hour saving in real-world race situations. This equates to over nine minutes saved over the 112 mile iron-distance bike leg, an amazing *3.75 miles gained* for the same energy expenditure," he said, adding that whether this advantage will be solely visible in bike split times or partially realized in the subsequent marathon run leg will depend on the athlete's strengths and race strategies, as well as how the given race unfolds.

Additional tests conducted by Kestrel, including direct bike-to-bike comparisons with no rider in place, showed that the Airfoil Pro still held a clear advantage, especially when given a representative 10-degree yaw angle to simulate racing into the often present side winds. However, when comparing results with rider versus without, Kestrel engineers were pleased to see that the Airfoil Pro's trademark "no seat tube" design was working as predicted. In fact, relative drag savings were some *four times better* with the rider on board and pedaling. "We knew the Airfoil Pro was aerodynamically superior to anything out there," stated Kestrel's Engineering Manager, Kent Whiting. "These tests really showed the advantage of our seat tube-less designs, where the lack of seat tube greatly reduces the obstruction of airflow through the rider's moving legs and provides 'cleaner' air passing over and around an aerodynamic race wheel. It's designed to be aero under actual riding conditions, and these tests proved it works," he concluded. Indeed, the Airfoil Pro design is so fast as to be banned from use in U.S. and International sanctioned road races and time trials – a point not lost on competitive triathletes in search of "free speed".



Kestrel engineers prepare for another test run (Kestrel/San Diego Low Speed Wind Tunnel)



German pro Katja Schumacher on her Airfoil Pro (K. Schumacher/S.D. Low Speed Wind Tunnel)

ABOUT KESTREL BICYCLES

Sandpoint Design Inc., dba Kestrel Bicycles, is a leading manufacturer of high performance carbon-fiber composite bicycle frames, forks and components for road, off-road, and multisport use since 1987. The company's products are marketed under the Kestrel® brand name domestically and internationally. Kestrel is a pioneer in the production of composite bicycle frames and forks and is responsible for many of the industry's technical innovations including the first all-carbon fiber frame, the first all carbon mountain bike, the first modern full-suspension mountain bike design, the first use of aerodynamic tube sections in a production bicycle, and the first carbon fiber road fork. Kestrel's corporate offices are located at: 5300 Soquel Avenue, Suite 101, Santa Cruz, CA, 95062. More information is available on-line at <http://www.kestrel-usa.com/> or by e-mail to info@kestrel-usa.com.