

# Chance for locals to race with pro team

■ BY JONATHAN WONG

A PROFESSIONAL career in sailing may be a faraway dream for former national sailor Maximilian Soh, but he now has an opportunity to gauge if his future lies out at sea.

He was among the 50-odd local sailors who signed up for the Audi ultra racing team, who have relocated to Singapore from Sydney.

Said Soh, 22: "It's a fantastic opportunity to be involved in a professional racing team. We will get to pick up new skills like rigging, sail-making, and learn about the hydraulics system."

The team, skippered by Finn Ludde Ingvall, will race in the supermaxi yacht, which measures 30 metres in length with a mast that extends to 14 storeys high and requires a crew of 28 to operate. It is among the biggest and most prestigious



The Audi ultra supermaxi yacht waiting to be lowered into the water at Loyang Offshore Base. About 50 local sailors have signed up to join the racing team. PHOTO: YUUZOO CORPORATION

of modern sail boats.

Ingvall, a two-time world champion, is looking to recruit 12 Singaporeans for his next two races – the China Coast Race in October and Phuket King's Cup in December.

Said Jason Lim, general manager of SingaporeSailing: "This kind of exposure will benefit our sailors tremendously."

Besides offering local sailors the chance to race with him, Ingvall is also

looking at the possibility of luring some of the sport's biggest names – like James Spithill, the winning skipper of the last America's Cup – to conduct coaching clinics here.

"It's important that we try to pass on our knowledge to these young sailors," said Ingvall, who owns the yacht with Thomas Zilliacus and Ron Creevey – co-founders of YuuZoo Corporation, a Singapore-based media company.

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