

## Countdown to boot 2018

### Biggest water sports trade fair about to start

#### 1,916 exhibitors from 68 different countries in 16 halls

boot Director Petros Michelidakis and his team are in the final tough week of preparations for boot 2018. And the 1.916 exhibitors in 16 halls dress up themselves for boot from 20. to 28. January 2018 and will present a fullness of boats premieres, innovations and services. All the boats and yachts are on land in the meantime and are being moved to the stands of the 1,916 exhibitors from 68 different countries in the 16 halls on the site. Attractions like "THE WAVE" or the new "Dive Center" are almost ready and cranes can be found all round the exhibition halls in Düsseldorf, while there is plenty of hammering, drilling and painting going on, carpets are being laid and everything is simply being made as appealing as possible for the world's biggest water sports trade fair – boot Düsseldorf 2018!

The trade fair organisers and exhibitors are under permanent pressure at the moment. Petros Michelidakis: "The arrival of the boats under their own power or on a pontoon via waterways including the Rhine was an exciting experience this year – and one that gave me some sleepless nights. The high water could not have come a day earlier." Even the first pontoons, which reached Düsseldorf on 3. and 4. January, only just fitted underneath the many bridges on the Rhine. The last sailing boat to arrive was the Oyster 745, which arrived in Düsseldorf at pretty much the last minute on 5. January before the water reached its highest level. The organisers of boot were fortunate that their legendary ship's crane "Big Willi" had no trouble lifting the boats out of the Rhine and that all these operations were completed successfully in spite of the adverse conditions.

The biggest and most international boot ever is starting on 20. January. There will be no end of attractions covering 220,000 square metres; variety of this kind has never been seen at the same trade fair anywhere before. Motor boats from small inflatable boats to the showpiece of the trade fair – the 35-metre-long Princess 35 M – sailing boats from the smallest dinghy



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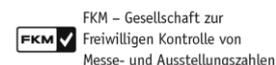
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to the increasingly popular top-of-the-line yachts in the 60 to 70 foot range – all classes are on display at boot 2018.

Ever since “THE WAVE” was introduced, young water sports enthusiasts in particular have looked forward to this action-packed trend sport. Fast-moving surfing on a standing WAVE is a real challenge even for international surfing professionals. Which explains why such successful surfers as Airton Cozzolino, Zane Schweitzer, Bernd Rosiger or Fiona Wylde are coming over to boot from their Hawaiian hotspots in the grey Central European month of January, in order to experience authentic surfing adventures here and to demonstrate their skills in international contests. Quite apart from these professional surfers, there are any number of amateur surfers who simply want to try surfing the WAVE.

The new Dive Center at boot has the look of a Caribbean diving base. A short holiday under palms is guaranteed here. In addition to the professional divers, who will be there to obtain information about the latest trends in their sport from the leading suppliers of diving accessories and equipment, newcomers to recreational diving in particular are invited to get initial tips here. Experts will be demonstrating how to fill oxygen bottles, put diving masks on and complete all the preparations for a dive. Once they have collected all this good information, diving beginners can then move on into the pool to dive for the first time using the equipment they can borrow at boot free of charge.

Holiday feeling rules in halls 13 and 14 with more than 200 chartering providers and marinas for exclusive individual holidays. The German cruising market leader AIDA will show a real ship cabin from one of its cruisers. Many families are interested in three-generation holidays. This kind of relaxed get-together is being presented at boot 2018 by houseboat providers, among others. With the Febomobil from Kuhnle, handicap-accessible holidays on the water are made possible too.

And anyone who would like to end his or her tour of the trade fair by seeing some really eye-catching exhibits, should not miss the “Classic Forum” in Hall 14. Elegant classics from Boesch or Riva are waiting here for admirers, because an auction will be taking place at which offers can be made for the boat you always wanted. An interesting piece of inner-German history is



**20.-28.1.2018**  
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waiting for a new owner here too, however: a motor boat produced in East Germany in 1982, which has genuine scarcity value, since there were practically no private motor boat owners there at this time.

**About boot Düsseldorf:**

boot Düsseldorf is the biggest boat and water sports trade fair in the world and is the place where all of the industry meets in January every year. More than 1,900 exhibitors from 68 different countries, 57 per cent of them from outside Germany, will be presenting their interesting innovations, attractive developments and maritime equipment again from 20. to 28. January 2018. This means that the whole of the global market will be coming to Düsseldorf, to provide an exciting insight into the entire water sports world for the nine-day exhibition in 16 different halls. The trade fair is open from 10:00 to 18:00 every day. Admission tickets can be ordered online at [www.boot.de](http://www.boot.de) and printed out conveniently at home. As an additional feature, they entitle ticket holders to use the Rhine-Ruhr public transport system free of charge up to price level D / South Region.

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