

Focus on sustainability at BLUE MOTION NIGHT

ocean tribute Award presented for ocean and water protection projects

Spontaneous gesture: Messe Düsseldorf CEO Dornscheidt increases prize money to € 3,000

The happy faces of the winners of the ocean tribute Award shone even more brightly than the highly polished yachts in the luxury yacht hall at boot Düsseldorf. Celebrities and industry players from the water sports community met for BLUE MOTION NIGHT on Monday evening. Since last year, this event has focussed entirely on sustainability as well as on interdisciplinary and international co-operation on ocean and water protection. Together with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, boot Düsseldorf and the German Ocean Foundation presented the ocean tribute Award to particularly ambitious and forward-looking projects in the categories industry, science and society. Messe Düsseldorf CEO Werner Matthias Dornscheidt was so enthusiastic about the commitment shown by the participants and the ideas they submitted that he spontaneously increased the prize money for the winners from € 1,500 to € 3,000 per category.

The first Award of the evening went to Friedrich J. Deimann for the development of "Green Boats" in the industry category. In his congratulatory speech, Messe Düsseldorf CEO Werner Matthias Dornscheidt emphasised the particularly impressive innovative skills demonstrated by the company from Bremen. The aim of "Green Boats" is to create an alternative to conventional plastic yachts, plastic surfboards and other plastic products with the help of modern, sustainable materials. Sustainable flax fibres are used instead of fibreglass, while "Green Boats" incorporate resins based on linseed oil rather than mineral oil-based polyester resins. The young company opts for cork or paper honeycombs when sandwich materials are needed. As a result, "Green Boats" reduce CO2 emissions by at least 80% in the production of water sports articles by comparison with companies that manufacture conventionally. Dornscheidt and the CEO of the sponsor Seabob, Hans-Peter Walpurgis, presented the winner's cheque to Deimann. green-boats.de



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Messe Düsseldorf GmbH
Postfach 10 10 06
40001 Düsseldorf
Messeplatz
40474 Düsseldorf
Germany

Telefon +49 (0) 2 11/45 60-01
Telefax +49 (0) 2 11/45 60-6 68
Internet www.messe-duesseldorf.de
E-Mail info@messe-duesseldorf.de

Geschäftsführung:
Werner M. Dornscheidt (Vorsitzender)
Hans Werner Reinhard
Joachim Schäfer
Bernhard Stempfle
Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrates:
Thomas Geisel

Amtsgericht Düsseldorf HRB 63
USt-IdNr. DE 119 360 948
St.Nr. 105/5830/0663

Mitgliedschaften der
Messe Düsseldorf:



Öffentliche Verkehrsmittel:
U78, U79: Messe Ost/Stockumer Kirchstr.
Bus 722: Messe-Center Verwaltung

Frank Schweikert, Executive Director of the German Ocean Foundation, stressed the international networking capabilities of the Ocean Foundation. Through its International Ocean Acidification Initiative, the prizewinner in the science category aims to create a network of scientists, in order to monitor and understand ocean chemistry developments and to report to the Ocean Foundation. Schweikert and legendary windsurfer Robby Naish presented the Award to Alexis Valauri-Orton, the representative of the Ocean Foundation. Together with its partners, the organisation based in Washington has developed starter kits for monitoring ocean acidification. These laboratory and field kits, also known as “GOA-ON” (The Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network), are able to make high-quality measurements for a tenth of the costs of existing measuring systems. In the context of its project, the Ocean Foundation has trained over 40 scientists and resource managers in 19 different countries and has supplied GOA-ON kits to 10 separate countries. oceanfdn.org

The actor Sigmar Solbach spoke in the presentation of the Award in the society category to the Dutch company Fairtransport. This transport company from Den Helder would like to make fair trade even cleaner and fairer. Instead of importing fair trade products via conventional channels, the company brings selected products to Europe on sailing ships. The aim is to establish a green trading network of fair products. Two traditional old sailing ships are being used for transport purposes at the moment. The “Tres Hombres” travels an annual route between Europe, all the islands in the North Atlantic, the Caribbean and the American continent. The “Nordlys” is deployed in European coastal trade, the North Sea and Greater Europe. Fairtransport is working on replacement of the two cargo sailing ships by modern sail-based merchant vessels. The Dutch company is the first emission-free transport company anywhere in the world. Solbach and the representative of the Principality of Monaco, Honorary Consul Dr Bernd Kunth, presented the Fairtransport Award to Andreas Lackner, the captain of the ships. fairtransport.eu



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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 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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Press Department boot Düsseldorf 2018

Tania Vellen/Cathrin Imkampe/Tim Feldmann

Tel.: +49 211/4560-518/589/995

vellent@messe-duesseldorf.de

imkampec@messe-duesseldorf.de

feldmannt@messe-duesseldorf.de

TV/Radio Department

Michael Vellen/Daniela Nickel

Tel.: +49 211/4560-990/545

Vellenm@messe-duesseldorf.de

Nickeld@messe-duesseldorf.de



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