



Press Release

DUBAI TO HOST ICOMIA WORLD MARINA CONFERENCE

UAE MARINAS LEAD THE UAE MARINE COMMUNITY IN A SUCCESSFUL BID FOR THE EVENT

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 10 September 2019: Dubai will host the prestigious ICOMIA (International Council of Marine Industry Associations) World Marina Conference 2020 in Autumn, bringing the international event to the Middle East for the very first time.

By winning the bid, the UAE Marine community reaffirms the country's position as the most vibrant market for the marinas industry in the Middle East, with 35 marinas across the country of which 15 are dotted along Dubai's coastlines and waterfronts.

As the host city for Expo 2020, Dubai, the acknowledged marine capital of the region, is well positioned to attract the world's leisure sailing and yachting enthusiasts in the run-up to the global event which is due to open its doors in 13 months.

Mohammed Al Muallem, CEO and Managing Director of DP World, UAE Region, which operates Mina Rashid the home of P&O Marinas, welcomed the successful bid for the prestigious ICOMIA event as a recognition of the growing importance of the marina and yacht industry to the UAE and Dubai.

The ICOMIA World Marinas Conference is set to showcase the latest in marina product development and technology, running a three-day programme which is due to commence in Autumn 2020. The conference will undoubtedly connect East to West and North to South, offering the region's upcoming marina industry to share expertise, innovation and technology with developed and traditional yachting markets.

Mohammed Al Manna'ei, CEO of P&O Marinas and Chairman of Raseina, Dubai Maritime City Authority's platform linking Dubai's marinas, said: "This is a very proud moment for P&O Marinas along with all marinas in the UAE in receiving the honour to host the ICOMIA World Marinas Conference. This is the perfect opportunity for the UAE Marine Association, which is currently under formation and will set the tone for future endeavours.

"By bringing the world's recreational boat industry leaders and companies together in Dubai, this will immensely benefit the UAE's domestic marine sector, which was valued at \$1.3-1.5 billion last year. As the highly anticipated Expo 2020 Dubai is due to start next year, this will prove to be an excellent attraction for leisure yacht enthusiasts from around the world. We want to express our



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sincere appreciation and gratitude to ICOMIA for accepting the UAE's bid to host this prestigious event.”

The ICOMIA bid was made by the entire UAE Marine Community through a collaborative effort. P&O Marinas, Bvlgari Marina, D- Marin Marinas, Dubai Marina Yacht Club, Exalto Emirates, JA Marina Dubai, Meraas, StratConn LLC and marina professionals Mr Bruno Meier and Mr John Paul Rebollini, supported by Dubai Maritime City Authority and Dubai Tourism, committed to each other to represent the unified marine industry in the UAE.

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Photo Caption:

The UAE's vibrant domestic marine sector is positioned well to benefit from the upcoming ICOMIA World Marina Conference in Autumn 2020. It's the first time the world's recreational boat industry leaders and companies will be meeting in the Middle East.

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About P&O Marinas

P&O Marinas is a DP World company established to develop world-class locations for the mooring of yachts and the hospitality of their owners, captains, guests and the local residents.

After the successful experience of Mina Rashid Marina (Dubai, UAE) where the company offers berths for some of the world's largest yachts, P&O Marinas extended its management and operations to four marinas in Dubai.

Its ongoing focus is to expand and create lifestyle destinations for yachting enthusiasts, local residents and tourists.

About ICOMIA:

ICOMIA was formed in 1966 to bring together in one global organisation the national boating federations and other bodies involved in the recreational marine industry, and to represent them at international level.



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The ICOMIA Marinas Group seeks to improve the sharing and exchange of information with respect to the development and best practice management of marinas, boat storage facilities, boating access and associated infrastructure throughout the world. A key function of the ICOMIA Marinas Group is to support the biennial World Marinas Conference, which brings together industry experts from across the globe with an exciting and stimulating programme. Visit www.icomia.org for more information