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H2O Magazine

N. 2 - JUNE 2013

H2O RACING
POWERBOAT PROMOTION



BRASILIA

SEASON-OPENER
FOR F1H2O



ROK FLORJANCIC TURNS ON THE STYLE TO WIN IN SANYA

RACE AGAINST TIME TO REPAIR ZABO-ISIKLAR FOR TURKISH GP



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Editor: Nigel Quilter
Art director: Alessandra Balzan@Comcentrica
Photographers: Raffaello Bastiani,
Simon Palfrader, Paul Lakatos,
Vittorio Ubertone, Arek Rejs
Editorial: Stephen J Michael, Q

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COMMERCIAL PARTNERS



For information, contact:
Marco Sala
tel: + 39 02 36503253
mob: + 39 335 6171828
email: marco@h2oracing.net
email: info@h2oracing.net

For marketing information, contact:
email: marketing@h2oracing.net

For media information, contact:
Nigel Quilter
tel: +44 1252 713223
mob: + 44 7785 325346
email: media@h2oracing.net

ORGANISATIONS



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POWERBOAT PROMOTION

H2O RACING

H2O Racing is a sport's marketing company set up by Nicolò di San Germano to promote World Championship events in powerboating.

The company was launched in January 2011 and brings together a group of professionals with over 30 years of experience in sport's and event management to collectively manage all commercial and marketing activities across four Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) sanctioned properties; the FIH2O and Class 1 World Powerboat Championships, the Aquabike World Championships and Nations Cup.

President: Nicolò di San Germano

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BRAZIL DEBUT FOR F1H2O

The 2013 UIM F1H2O World Championship turns a new page in its history as it embarks on its 30th racing season.

The talk of the racing world has centred on the newest stage that takes the series to an emerging continent when it travels to Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, in the heart of South America for

the first Grand Prix of Brazil [1-2 June] and the season-opener.

Eight teams and 17 drivers from 11 countries will line up in Brasilia for the first of seven races in 2013 taking the World's premiere powerboat series to the Ukraine, China, Qatar and the UAE.

VICTORY COMPLETE THE HAT-TRICK IN HISTORIC SANYA GRAND PRIX

Fifty-years after American Jim Wynne won the first UIM sanctioned World Drivers' Championship in 1964 the sport celebrated its anniversary-season with an historic first Grand Prix in the Peoples' Republic of China.

The bustling city port of Sanya

on the southern tip of Hainan Island provided a diverse and exciting backdrop, with the defending World Champions Arif Al Zaffain and Mohammed Al Marri completing the hat-trick to add a 52nd win in qualifying and extend their impressive tally of race successes to 95.



ANOTHER MASSIVE YEAR AHEAD FOR H2O RACING

2013 is set to be yet another ground-breaking, demanding and challenging season for Nicolò di San Germano and his team at H2O Racing, with over 20 events planned on four continents across its four UIM sanctioned Championships, Aquabike, Class 1, F1H2O and Nations Cup.



VLADIVOSTOK GEARING-UP FOR ARRIVAL OF MODERN-DAY FLEET

Primorsky Krai Powerboat Sport Federation and Aquabike Promotion, the organisers of the UIM-ABP Aquabike Rally Jet World Championship - Russky Offshore 2013, sponsored by Davos, have revealed details for this year's event which will be held in Vladivostok, Russia on 13-17 August.

The historic fortified city port

will play host to a more modern-day fleet of 'boats' when up to 50 of the world's leading international Aquabike riders descend on Russia's south-eastern most city.

The top riders in the sports Blue Riband category, Runabout GP1, will face a gruelling five stages in five days covering approximately 1000kms.

CARELLA TARGETS FIH2O TITLE HAT-TRICK

2013 will see Team Qatar's Italian race-ace Alex Carella bidding to become only the second driver in the history of the FIH2O World Championship to Italy's Guido Cappellini - who did it twice - to win a hat-trick of World titles. The 27-year-old closed out his second consecutive world title in Abu Dhabi last year with his sixth Grand Prix win from just 21-starts.



ZABO 'RACING' AGAINST TIME TO FIX THEIR BOAT

Two impressive performances in Sanya, finishing second in qualifying and second in race 1, were somewhat overshadowed when Ugur Isik and Christian Zaborowski crashed out at the first turn in race 2.

The team faces a race against time to repair the severely damaged Mercury-powered Zabo-Isirlar in time for round 2 of the UIM Class 1 World Powerboat Championship in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-16 June.



▲ ROCK FLORJANCIC freestyler

ROK FLORJANCIC THE CLASS FREESTYLE ACT IN SANYA

Slovenia's Freestyle star Rok Florjancic produced two faultless performances to take maximum points to win the Sanya Grand Prix, the opening round of the UIM-ABP Aquabike Class Pro World Championship.

A costly mistake in heat 2 by his younger brother and defending World Champion Nac let in Italy's Valerio Calderoni who split the Slovenian's to claim the runners-up slot.

ZABO-ISIKLAR LOOKING TO CARRY THE FIGHT TO VICTORY





Fifteen years after the Jolly Motor crew of Massimo Lippi and Lamberto Leoni won the first Grand Prix of Turkey [1998], Class 1 returns to Istanbul for round 2, this time to race on the Asian side of the city across the Bosphorus in Pendik [14-16 June] on the Marmara Sea.

Arif Al Zaffain and Mohammed Al Marri will be looking to extend their lead in the Championship standings and to emulate the successes achieved by previous Victory pairings on Turkish waters; Ali Nasser and Randy Scism taking the chequered flag in Istanbul and in Bodrum in 1999 - Nasser winning again in Istanbul the following year with Khalfan Harib - Mohammed Al Marri winning with Saeed Al Tayer in Marmaris also in 2000.

The last event to be held in Turkey was in Izmir and won by Spirit of Norway's Bjorn Rune Gjelsten and Steve Curtis, and of the present class of 2013 only Al Marri, Giampaolo Montavoci and Ugur Isik have raced in Turkey.

The defending Champions are on a six race winning streak, unbeaten in their last four outings in qualifying, and sit 24-points clear of LFFendiIO and Victory Australia following their Sanya Grand Prix win-treble in the season-opener in March.

Al Zaffain and Al Marri top the Victory Team's all-time winners table with 34 and 24 wins respectively, with five-time World Champion Al Zaffain now equal with Bjorn Rune Gjelsten and closing in on Steve Curtis' record of 42 wins.

But last time out the Champions came up against a new revitalised challenger, Zabo-Isiklar, and for over half of the ten-laps of race 1 in Sanya it looked as though an upset was on the cards.

The opening round of any season is hard to predict but one outfit arrived seemingly better prepared than some. On the back of a full winter development programme in Dubai and extensive work on their V8 Mercury-powered Zabo-Isiklar, the Norwegian-Turkish duo of Christian

Zaborowski and Ugur Isik looked really impressive each time they took to the water.

Always on the pace they swapped times in practice with Victory duo and then went out to post their best ever result in qualifying, just missing out on the pole to Victory by just 1.7secs.

Lining up and sandwiched between the two blue boats of Victory and Victory Australia the Zabo-Isiklar duo produced a blistering start to put them ahead of the pole-sitters into turn one.

Taking their mandatory short-lap immediately, by lap 3 they had opened up a 26 seconds gap over Victory who had dropped to third spot behind LFFendiIO who was on the same strategy as the race leaders'.

An upset looked to be on but Victory was making a move and had the short-lap in hand. They passed LFFendiIO on lap 4 and the gap to the race leaders' was down to 20 seconds. Leaving it until the last opportunity, on lap 6 the Dubai pairing went for their short-lap and took a remarkable 32 seconds out of Zabo-Isiklar to emerge out front and 12-seconds clear.

For the remaining four laps it was a mere formality with Victory restoring normal service and pulling away to take the chequered flag to win from Zabo-Isiklar by over 40 seconds, completing the 10 laps and 51.50Nm in 33mins 15.70s.

Although surprised by the early pace of their rivals, Arif Al Zaffain said that they always felt in control, the Zabo-Isiklar crew hinting that a recurring engine issue resulting in loss of power had cost them the win.



Zabo-Isiklar crew looking for first win together



Zabo-Işiklar making a blistering start in race 1 on Sanya Bay





With Zabo-Isiklar having resolved their engine issue, race 2 would give them the opportunity to see if they could carry the fight to Victory and go one better and claim top spot.

Victory lined-up in P1, outside them their three main rivals, Zabo-Isiklar, LFFendi10 and Victory Australia.

This time Victory made no mistake and led into the first turn, which is where Zabo-Isiklar's race came to a dramatic and spectacular end, barrel-rolling 360 degrees and out of the race to bring out the red flag and force a re-start.

The Victory duo again took control from the re-start and was unchallenged at the front throughout, systematically extending their lead lap-by-lap to eventually run out comfortable winners of the reduced 14-lap race by 45-seconds to lead the Championship by 16-points from LFFendi10 and Victory Australia.

Thankfully both Zaborowski and Isik emerged from the cockpit seemingly unscathed, although throttleman Christian [Zaborowski] was clearly dazed and shaken by the incident.

The same could not be said for the boat, although somewhat to be expected after a high-speed big impact spill, the damage to the deck, left side and engine bay was severe and clearly visible to all as it was towed off the course and back to the pits. But the extent of the damage was alarming.

The team immediately set about regrouping, did what they could to the boat in Sanya, with the bulk of the repairs planned to take place in Turkey to get the boat ready in time for what will be their 'home' Grand Prix.

Two outfits looking to be challenging both Victory and Zabo-Isiklar in Istanbul will be Italians Luca Formilli Fendi and Giovanni Carpitella in LFFendi10 and Australians Darren Nicholson and Ross Willaton in Victory Australia, both outfits running Victory built boats - the Italians running SCAM V12s the Aussies Victory V12s - and who enjoyed a herculean scrap and success in Sanya.

In race 1 the Aussies attacked and the Italians defended for six of the 10 laps. The gap was never more than five seconds and with one lap to go was just two. But the LFFendi10 crew hung on heroically to finish in third and take revenge on the Victory Australia crew who had knocked them off the podium in qualifying.

The two outfits continued their dice in race 2, but the Australian duo were able to turn the tables on their Italian rivals, passing them on lap 3 to go on and take their second podium of the weekend – the Fendi crew settling for another third.

Fendi Racing has confirmed a revised line-up in their second boat, LFFendi8, with Italian Marco Pennesi joining countryman Alredo Amato, who made his Class 1 debut in Sanya alongside Miles Jennings.



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Race 1 & 2 winners celebrate in Sanya



Pennesi started racing powerboats in 2002 in Italy. Two years later he won the Super Sport Class in the PI Championship, made his Class 1 debut in Arendal in 2007 and last race in Brazil in 2010.

The team also confirmed that both boats will run SCAM V12 power-plants and that LFFendiO will run a new exhaust set-up.

Team Abu Dhabi's driver reshuffle takes another twist in Istanbul, with Class 1 regular Rashed Al Tayer returning to race duties but this time will take the throttles alongside newcomer Faleh Al Mansoori.

In Sanya [Faleh] Al Mansoori partnered Giampaolo Montavoci in qualifying to finish a very credible fifth and then went on to race with Tomaso Polli to take fifth and fourth spots and put the team into fourth place overall in the points table.

Team D'Alessio-SCAM has again confirmed the same line up with Gian Maria Gabbiani and Luca Nicolini starting their sixth Grand Prix together.

The duo enjoyed a solid season-opener in Sanya picking up five points in qualifying and matching the position with sixth in race 1. They enjoyed a solitary run and untroubled race 2 maintaining fifth place throughout and once again proved their reliability, completing their sixth straight points finish in FA.RO. ACCIAI.

DAC Racing has yet to announce its line-up, and there is speculation that Guido Cappellini may return to take the wheel and partner Giampaolo Montavoci after missing Sanya.

Montavoci showed his versatility in Sanya jumping in and out of two different boats to guide two rookies on their Class 1 debuts, racing with Faleh Al Mansoori in Team Abu Dhabi in qualifying and with Salim Al Adidi in both races in Poliform.

Race 1 ended early with Poliform towed off the course on lap 2 with technical problems, and in race 2 they hit trouble on lap 1, an electrical problem forcing Poliform to a crawl. But the Italian and his rookie driver Adidi stuck with it, Poliform kicked back into life and they were able to go on and complete the race to finish in the points in fifth.

UIM CLASS 1 WORLD POWERBOAT CHAMPIONSHIP
after round 1

POS	NOS	BOAT	DRIVERS	POINTS
1	3	Victory	A Al Zaffain (UAE) / Mohammed Al Marri (UAE)	40
2=	10	LFF10	L Formilli Fendi (ITA) / G Carpitella (ITA)	24
2=	7	Victory Australia	Darren Nicholson (AUS) / Ross Willaton (AUS)	24
4	5	Abu Dhabi	F Al Mansoori (UAE) / Tomaso Polli (ITA)	16
5	91	Zabo-Isiklar	U Isik (TUR) / C Zaborowski (NOR)	15
6	23	FARO ACCIAI	GM Gabbiani (ITA) / L Nicolini (ITA)	12
7	74	Poliform	S Al Adidi (UAE) / G Montavoci (SUI)	5
	8	LFF8	M Jennings (GBR) / A Amato (ITA)	0
	86	Visun Sanya	M Stromoy (NOR) / PV Nilsen (NOR)	0

UIM EDOX POLE POSITION CHAMPIONSHIP
after round 1

POS	NOS	BOAT	DRIVERS	POINTS
1	3	Victory	A Al Zaffain (UAE) / Mohammed Al Marri (UAE)	20
2	91	Zabo-Isiklar	U Isik (TUR) / C Zaborowski (NOR)	15
3	7	Victory Australia	Darren Nicholson (AUS) / Ross Willaton (AUS)	12
4	10	LFF10	L Formilli Fendi (ITA) / G Carpitella (ITA)	9
5	5	Abu Dhabi	F Al Mansoori (UAE) / Tomaso Polli (ITA)	7
6	23	FARO ACCIAI	GM Gabbiani (ITA) / L Nicolini (ITA)	5
7	8	LFF8	M Jennings (GBR) / A Amato (ITA)	4
	74	Poliform	S Al Adidi (UAE) / G Montavoci (SUI)	0
	86	Visun Sanya	M Stromoy (NOR) / PV Nilsen (NOR)	0



**ROK
FLORJANCIC
STEALS THE
SHOW TO WIN
IN SANYA**



The UIM-ABP Aquabike Class-Pro World Championship kicked-off in spectacular fashion with the World's top Freestylers opening the 2013 season in the stunning city port of Sanya, China in March.

Call it what you will, acrobatics, aquabatics or simply aerial insanity, the artistry and physical prowess of the improbable gravity defying acts of the Freestylers are simply extraordinary.

Six of the sport's top stars showcased their skills in front of thousands of enthusiastic spectators who lined Sanya Bay, but the undoubted star of the show was Slovenia's Rok Florjancic.

Leading out the magnificent six was defending UIM-ABP

World Champion Nac Florjancic and the 2012 IJSBA Havasu Champion, his older brother Rok.

Born in Maribor, Slovenia, the Florjancic brothers are arguably the world's top two Freestylers; they debuted in the UIM-ABP Championship in China in 2011 and laid an impressive marker for their rivals to take note of, completing the one-two with Rok leading home his brother in both heats to take the Grand Prix title.

The duo dominated again in 2012; Rok was the stand-out rider winning the Grand Prix titles ahead of Nac in Qatar and Italy. But his absence from the title decider due to commercial commitments in the USA where he went on to win the Havasu title for the second time, opened the door for his brother who went on to win in Liuzhou, China to lift his first World Championship.





Making a welcome return to the UIM-ABP series in Sanya was the flamboyant Italian star, Valerio 'showtime' Calderoni.

The 2009 and 2011 World Champion and three-times Italian Champion from Rome sat out the 2012 season after injury forced him out of the opener, but he recovered to compete in Europe, going on to win the title.

Calderoni was joined by countryman and fellow Roman, Roberto Mariani, the veteran of the six at 43 years young and famed for his trick 'superman'. He made his competitive debut in 2002 winning the Italian Championship, repeating the feat in 2007 and 2009.

Two relative newcomers to the sport completed the line-up, Frenchman Nicolas Denille, the youngest of the competitors at 23 and Serbian Aleksandar Petrovic.

Denille, a car designer from Paris, France, made his competitive debut in 2009 and has finished as runner-up in the French Championship for the last four years, taking fourth in the European's last year and finishing third in China in his only appearance in the UIM-ABP series.

Aleksandar Petrovic made his UIM-ABP debut in Sanya; a freestyle instructor from Belgrade, he splits his time between home and Miami due to his Freestyle commitments in the USA. He finished fourth in the IJSBA Championship in 2011, winning the American AM Championship.

Rok Florjancic marked his return to the series with a typically impressive and powerful performance to win heat 1. Despite the rain and overcast conditions, the Slovenian Freestyle star produced a near faultless series of tricks from his repertoire of back flips, barrel roles, 360's and combinations.

Second place went to younger brother Nac, who quipped after his performance that 'he wished his brother had stayed in America'.

Italy's Valerio Calderoni signalled his return to the series after a year out with third place, despite a niggling back injury and a problem with his bike during his routine. Bike issues also hindered Aleksandar Petrovic and Nicolas Denille, both finishing ahead of Roberto Mariani.



AQUABIKE

In Heat 2 Rok Florjancic went on to complete his double with another stunning showing to take the Sanya Grand Prix title with maximum points.

Nac [Florjancic] looked to be carrying the fight to his older brother and produced a faultless opening series of tricks until disaster struck and he lost his grip and the bike. The delay to retrieve it proved costly, finishing fourth and dropping to third overall.

Calderoni again struggled with his bike, but produced a better performance in heat 2 to take second spot and the runners-up slot. Aleksandar Petrovic improved on his points score to take third place in heat 2 and finish fourth overall, ahead of Roberto Mariani and Nicolas Denille.

The next event for Aquabike Promotion, in collaboration with the Primorsky Krai Powerboat Sport Federation, is the UIM-ABP Aquabike Rally Jet World Championship - Russky Offshore 2013, sponsored by Davos, in Vladivostok, Russia on 13-17 August.

Up to 50 riders in the sports Blue Riband category Runabout GP1 will face a gruelling five stages in five days covering approximately 1000kms. The 67km circuit which starts and finishes in Ajax Bay will see the riders completing three tours around Russky Island with two permitted pit-stops.



UIM-ABP AQUABIKE CLASS PRO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FREESTYLE - after round 1

POS	NOS	RIDER	POINTS
1	3	Rok Florjancic (slo)	50
2	14	Valerio Calderoni (ita)	36
3	7	Nac Florjancic (slo)	33
4	22	Aleksandar Petrovic (srb)	29
5=	70	Roberto Mariani (ita)	21
5=	30	Nicholas Denille (fra)	21



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A MILESTONE SEASON SHAPING UP FOR F1H2O IN 2013!

The 2013 UIM FIH2O World Championship opens a new page in its history as it starts its 30th racing season.

The talk of the racing world has centered around the newest stage that takes the series to an emerging continent when it travels to Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, in the heart of South America for the first Grand Prix of Brazil on 1-2 June for the season-opener.

Then it's off across the Atlantic to Europe for the Grand Prix of Ukraine (2-4 August), held in the lovely capital city of Kyiv, one

of the educational and cultural capitals of Eastern Europe.

This will be the third straight year the series has come to the Kyiv Region. The race circuit will be run on the tricky large body of water, the Kyiv Sea. It will highlight a special "doubleheader" weekend of racing with the always exciting "Presidents' Cup" drag races being run the day following the Grand Prix.

The UIM FIH2O World Championship then travels to the Far East for the first of two events, returning to Shanghai (14-15 September) for the first time since 2004 and then to Liuzhou, China (3-4 October) for the Grand Prix of China. The race will mark the 20th Grand Prix in the country since 1995 and the seventh event held on the Liu River since its inception back in 2008.





The most grueling part of the schedule with three back-to-back events starts in November with the Grand Prix of Qatar (22-23 November) on Doha Bay close to the city centre.

The following weekend is the Grand Prix of Abu Dhabi (28-29 November) in the capital of the Emirates, the longest standing event on the calendar. This year's event will mark the 22nd Grand Prix around the Corniche, one of the loveliest backdrops of all for powerboat racing and on one of the most challenging circuits on the tour.

The 2013 campaign will conclude with the Grand Prix of Sharjah (12-13 December) and its spectacular setting in the centre of the city along the Khaled Lagoon. This year will mark the 10th straight time that Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority holds the end of the year ceremonies and Hall-of-Fame Awards for a memorable evening out in the desert.

The 2013 campaign kicks off with many questions to be answered. One of the most intriguing puzzles to be answered will be

whether two-time defending World Champion Alex Carella of the Qatar Team can be beaten this season? The last driver to win three straight titles was fellow Italian Guido Cappellini who accomplished the feat from 2001 to 2003.

The young 27-year-old driver, starting just his fourth season in F1H2O, has six career-victories in just 21 race starts. Alex, who won the title last year with 79 points, has been improving each season. He won once in his rookie campaign in 2010, twice in 2011 and took three of the six race wins a year ago in 2012. The driver, who hails from Codogno, Italy, also captured the "Pole Position" and "Fast Lap" titles a year ago as well. Most experts agree it will be tough to take him off his high perch as number one this season as well without a strong fight.

However, if there is any one person Alex should fear the most, it may be his own teammate.

Shaun Torrente, the young American known by his nickname "The Alien" showed flashes of brilliance in his second full season of racing

in FIH2O. He out-dueled Alex in the first three events a year ago only to have his season shut down after crashing out on a race restart at the Grand Prix of China. The UIM Race Officials on hand at the race ruled his actions intentional in taking out another driver and deemed it "dangerous driving" and suspended him for the final two events.

Shaun comes back this year more determined than ever. The Floridian carries great confidence. He earned pole position a year ago in Kazan, was leading two races back-to-back hoping for his first career victory only to be handed heart breaking bad luck failing to finish either because of mechanical woes.

The driver from Miami knows he's as fast as his World Champion teammate and will push Alex all season long as the Qatar Team looks to re-establish itself as the top organisation for the "Team Championship Trophy in 2013.

The group from Doha knows that their chief rivals once again this season is Team Abu Dhabi who took team honours last year despite losing one of the series' most talented drivers in Ahmed Al Hameli because of an illness that ended his season at the halfway point.

The young Al Hameli was leading the championship with 50 points and by a comfortable nine point margin. He started the season with a victory in Doha followed by two straight runner-up positions in Kazan and Kyiv. However, after complaining of headaches a tumor was found and he was forced to spend the rest of the summer months in the United States of America for treatment. Ahmed currently waits to see if he can get the green light to return in 2013 which would be a much welcomed sight around the paddock shared by all.

If Ahmed cannot return, the pressure will once again fall to his teammate Thani Al Qamzi. The 34-year-old, who begins his 13th season of racing, is once again looking for his first world title and hoping to expand on his seven career victories after finishing third with 60 points a year ago.

Working alongside Thani, as his teammate, will be budding star Rashed Al Tayer, another in a long line of talented Abu Dhabi trained drivers who seem to pop up every year. Al Tayer comes over to help from Class I where he finished second in the title race a year ago.

In a back-up role is four-time World Champion Scott Gillman, who for the past six years has been designated as the Team Manager, who came out of retirement to race in the season's final two events. He finished seventh in Sharjah but more importantly was seen spending time testing possible new engine combinations for the future of the series.

While Team Abu Dhabi looks to juggle a driver line-up once again in 2013, the CTIC China Team with the help of lead driver Philippe Chiappe, look to take the next giant step and win a world title this year.



The 2013 campaign kicks off with many questions to be answered. One of the most intriguing puzzles to be answered will be whether two-time defending World Champion Alex Carella of the Qatar Team can be beaten this season?





Assistant Team Manager and ex-F1H2O pilot Philippe Dessertenne has been staying busy trying to stay ahead of the curve, building a new race plant in his hometown of La Rochelle in France. He has also over the winter been updating the Moore designed hulls that have been so successful the last few years and as always chasing more horsepower from the V6 engines.

Meanwhile, his pilot from Rouen, France, Chiappe, had his best season in 2012 finishing second in the Championship with 62 points on the strength of three podiums in the six race series.

His second place finish in Doha at the opening round was the high water mark of the season for Philippe, followed by a pair of thirds in Kazan and Liuzhou. He also became the "Drag Racing" King by winning the prestigious "President's Cup" event in Kyiv.

For Philippe however, he must first jump over the first hurdle and win his first Grand Prix of his career. Then, he can begin searching for that illusive first World title.

Joining him in the second seat is China's newest racing talent in young "Leo" Xiong Zi-Wei.

The one-time automobile drifting star comes over after starting in the Formula F-4S class. He got his feet wet for the first time in F1H2O having raced in the final two races in the Emirates a season ago. The driver from Shenzhen will be on a quick learning curve and will be closely watched by the huge media following in China looking for success early.

Two-time World Champion Sami Selio will once again lead his Mad Croc Team in search of another title, something he hasn't done since 2010.

The driver from Finland lost his chance to win the title a year ago when at the Grand Prix of China he was part of a three boat battle going into a turn at the end of the long back straightaway in Liuzhou. Qatar's Shaun Torrente came up from behind hitting him and taking both boats out of the event. Thus, all but eliminating Sami from his dreams of a third crown.

The 37-year-old driver from Helsinki came back into the series in fine form taking a podium third place position following a horrendous accident six months previous in China that kept him sidelined for the rest of the 2011 campaign.

Sami went on to win from pole the race in Kyiv. He earned his third podium of the season with a third place finish in Abu Dhabi finishing tied for third in the championship with 60 points.

He will once again be joined by countryman, Filip Roms, who last year finished tied for 11th in the drivers' championship with 10 points, with a seventh place in Doha his best result of the year which included three top ten performances.

Francesco Cantando, a 16-year-veteran of the sport is ready to start his 140th Grand Prix in Brasilia, with hopes of a first world title to add to his long resume of success. The driver from Milan is the winningest active driver on the tour with 12 victories dating back to his first at the Grand Prix of Poland back in 2000.

The lead driver for the Singha Team was classified sixth overall last year with 38 points. He ended his season on a high note with a third place podium finish in Sharjah. "Franz" is a three time runner-up in the drivers' championship with 2000 being his best season earning 141 points. His last victory was in 2010. He hopes this season to return to the "winners circle" as he continues to update his own Blaze built boat into a contender.

Returning as teammate on the Singha Team will be fellow Italian Valerio Lagiannella. The likeable driver from Merlate was 14th in the standings a year ago with six points. His best run of the season was an eighth in Kazan.

Also coming onboard will be the talented young Polish driver, Bartek Marszalek, who raced four times back in 2011 with a best placed tenth at the Ukraine GP, and will join the team in Kyiv.

Swedish racing star Jonas Andersson and the country of Azerbaijan have once again formed a business relationship as Team Azerbaijan in pursuit of their goal in making the popular 38 year-old driver from Fruvi, Sweden World Champion for the first time in his career.

Jonas was seventh overall with 26 points last year with three top five performances. He saved his best for last with a season ending fourth at the Grand Prix of Sharjah in December. The four time winner has great statistics and a lot of promise on the tour with 57 race starts and 10 podiums in just the 35 races he's finished.

Andersson has also confirmed that Norway's Pal Virik Nilsen has signed a contract to join Team Azerbaijan and will be making his debut at the season opener and that they will run three boats with Brazilian Paul Gaiser joining them in Brasilia.

The FI Atlantic Team is headed by 13-year-veteran Duarte Benavente of Portugal who wants to forget about 2012 as soon as possible. The likeable driver from Lisbon managed just two points all season in his worst showing of his career. His bad luck saw him finish just two of the five races he entered. His high note was a season best ninth place finish in Kyiv.

Duarte's teammate once again will be the gregarious driver from Kuwait, Youssef Al Rubayan. The 36-year-old showed well, completing his first full season in FIH2O in 2012 after racing for many years in F2. He was 10th in the drivers' championship with 11 points including a season best fifth at the Grand Prix in Liuzhou.

The Nautica Team is headed by one of the most dynamic drivers in the World, Norwegian Marit Stromoy, but who battled inconsistency a year ago and placed 13th in the drivers' championship with eight points.

This singer/performer when not racing is a "must see" in Scandinavia. She works hard to promote the sport in Norway and is currently helping four junior drivers while at the same time using a promotional FI "media boat" to promote the sport.

Back for another season is her veteran teammate, Rinaldo Osculati. The native of Italy missed out in gaining any points last year but is feeling 100% and ready for a full season as he begins his fifth year in the sport.



The most intriguing team in the sport is the South African Caudwell Racing Team. This race organisation from Cape Town, led by Chief Executive Officer Mike Beachy Head, has taken well to FIH2O introducing four-stroke engine technology with purpose built boats that continue to improve each time they take to the water.

In Liuzhou, China, they became the first race team in the four decades of the sport with a four-stroke engine to complete a Grand Prix distance. They went out and followed that up earning points for the first time in the sport at the Grand Prix of Sharjah in early December.

Led by veteran Ivan Brigada, the Italian star has done much to give valuable input into this ground-breaking project. Ivan earned the teams' first ever world championship point with a well-earned 10th position. He did this with the newest second generation boat that was especially flown up from South Africa for the final two rounds.

Fellow driver Brett Stuart is a South African champion who just missed earning a point at Liuzhou in China with an 11th place finish. He is looking forward to his second season hoping to start the success he had while being South African FI champion a few years back.

The Caudwell organization is expected to miss the season-opener and will kick-off their campaign in Kyiv.

Others looking to make appearances in 2013 will be hopefuls led by multi-time World Champion Jonathan Jones of Wales along with longtime friend and boat builder David Burgess. Will there be a pilot filling a seat on the Dragon FI Team?

Other speculation has it that the 2008 World Champion Jay Price is a possible returnee after racing the final two rounds in the Emirates with the Dubai based Victory Team last December.

A year ago, 28 drivers from 16 nations from five different continents took part on the 10 month quest to become a World Champion. The main question remains if any one driver can step forward and take away the crown of back-to-back two-time World Champion Alex Carella or will the young Italian continue to dazzle for his much hoped for "hat-trick" of World titles in 2013.



▲
Caudwell Racing adapted well to FIH2O introducing its new four stroke engine technology





The ultra-modern campus of Far Eastern Federal University offers a vibrant and safe environment for the student and academic activities necessary for high quality life, learning and creativity. Situated in the picturesque Ajax Bay of Russky Island (near Vladivostok), it is a unique project that has no equivalent in Russia.

Over the years, FEFU has proudly become the largest, most innovative and internationally recognized higher education institution in the Russian Far East. Today, it is striving to foster integration of the Russian Far East into the Pacific Rim through education, research, and high-tech development.

Beyond the university campus there's plenty to keep you entertained. You can enjoy skiing and snowboarding in winter, observing the taiga change colors in autumn, hiking and horse-back riding in spring, and relaxing on the beach in summer. Our botanical garden can be visited while enjoying one of the 310 sunny days that Vladivostok has to offer on average each year. You are welcome to FEFU!



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ANOTHER EXCITING SEASON ANTICIPATED IN THE F-4S EUROFIN TROPHY



▲ The two title contenders went on to claim the top two spots in all but two races in 2012.

Much is expected from this year's F-4S Eurofin Trophy, the feeder series to inshore circuit racing's flagship FIH2O World Championship, after 2012 produced yet another captivating season-long fight for the title with the outcome going down to the wire in the final event of the year in the United Arab Emirate of Sharjah.

At this stage it looks as though a new Champion will emerge over the course of the season, with both the 2012 Champion, Jesper Forss, and the 2011 Champion and last year's runner-up Matthew Palfreyman missing from the start line in Brasilia.

The two protagonists dominated last year and claimed the top two spots in all but two races, Forss winning five and finishing second six-times, sealing the title in Sharjah despite Palfreyman's seven win haul.

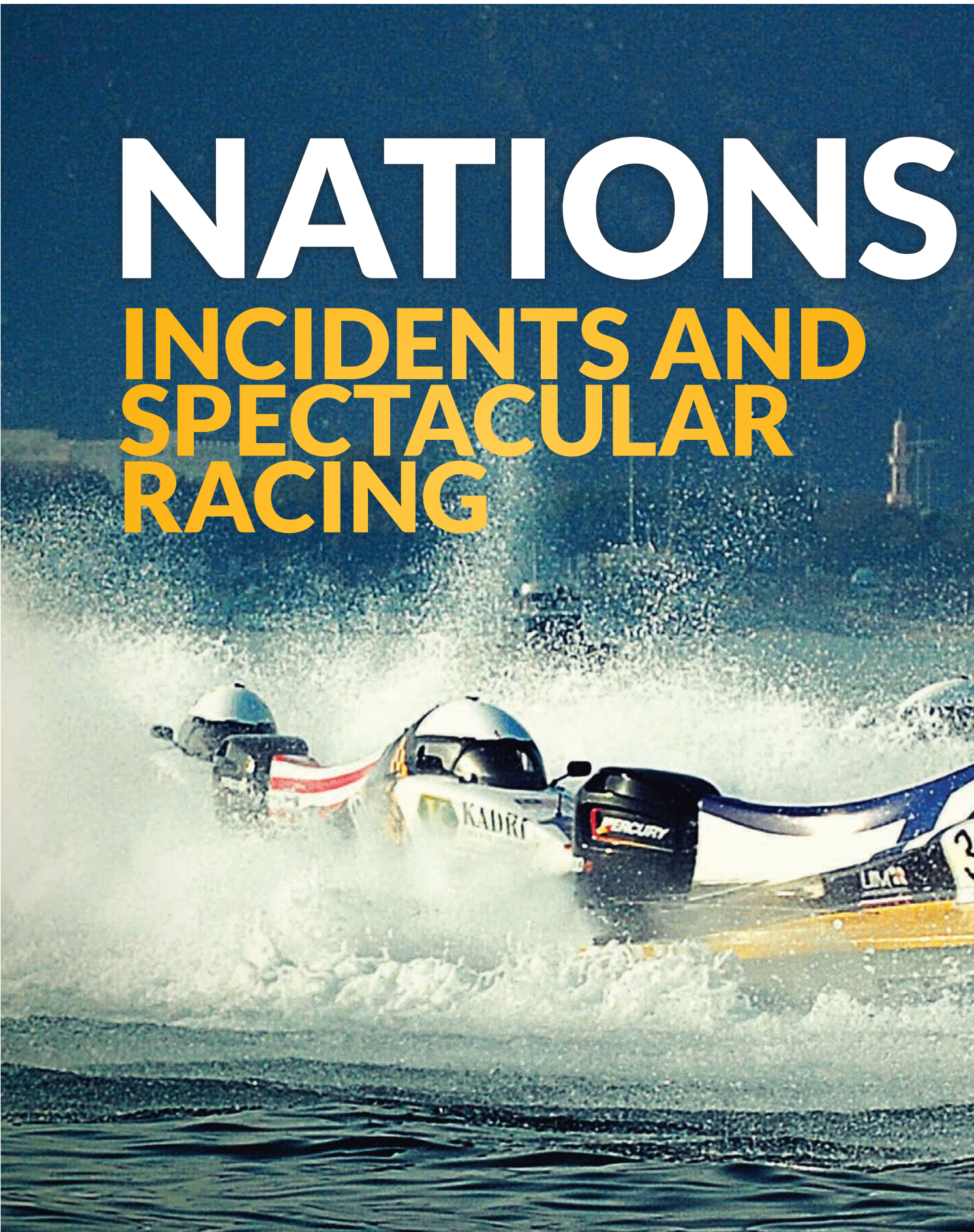
Whilst the majority of the eight teams retain their driver line-ups, Sweden's Nicklas Friberg will take the Champions seat, running under the colours of Team Azerbaijan whilst German Mike Syzmura makes his F-4S debut racing for the FI Atlantic Team.

Team Nautica has confirmed last year's third placed Tobias Munthe-Kaas, with Team Qatar staying with Khalid Al Kuwari who finished fourth overall last year. Jan Andre Landsnes again gets the nod to take the Singha FI Racing seat.

The Hungarian Vo brothers, Kornel and Viktor, will continue their inter-family dice and share the seat racing for Finland's Mad Croc outfit, with Mohamed Al Mehairbi the preferred choice for Team Abu Dhabi and Wu Bing Chen, who joined the tour in Abu Dhabi last season, retained by the CTIC China Team..

NATIONS

INCIDENTS AND SPECTACULAR RACING





CUP

Incident, accidents and spectacular close-quarter racing are the hallmarks of this fledgling series and why it is destined to secure its place amongst powerboat racing's hierarchy in the coming seasons.

Devised by Nicolò di San Germano, Nations Cup is a new approach to the spectacular sport of single-seater inshore circuit racing, placing the emphasis on team participation and country success rather than that of individual driver ability and success.

The series launched in Singapore's magnificent Marina Bay in 2011 with the second outing for Nations Cup Teams in Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirate of Sharjah last year. In 2013 the series will head to Qatar and the UAE for the first time.

Teams that have competed in the series includes Brazil, Brunei, Finland, Hungary, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Qatar and the UAE.

Team UAE has been the success story of the series to date, winning in Singapore with Ahmed Al Hameli and Majed Al Mansoori, in Sharjah with Mansoori and Rashed Al Tayer and will be looking to complete their hat-trick this season.

Each National team is backed by its UIM sanctioned National Authority and runs two boats, with two to four drivers sharing practice, qualifying and racing responsibilities over a weekend.

Drivers compete in identical stock boats using identical engines and propellers which are drawn by lottery at the start of each race weekend, with the overall winner of the Nations Cup not the strongest individual driver but the Nation whose driver-combination amasses the most points from the match race and both sprint races.

Nations Cup is an affordable way for teams and drivers to compete internationally, giving countries the opportunity to introduce and develop up-and-coming talented young drivers.

The boats are owned and managed by H2O Racing at their headquarters in Abu Dhabi and leased-out to teams.

The single-seater tunnel-hull catamarans are capable of impressive acceleration, high speeds and exceptional manoeuvrability. Each boat is approximately six metres in length, two metres wide, weighs 455kgs and powered by a 2.5litre, 225HP Mercury Optimax 200XS SST engine.

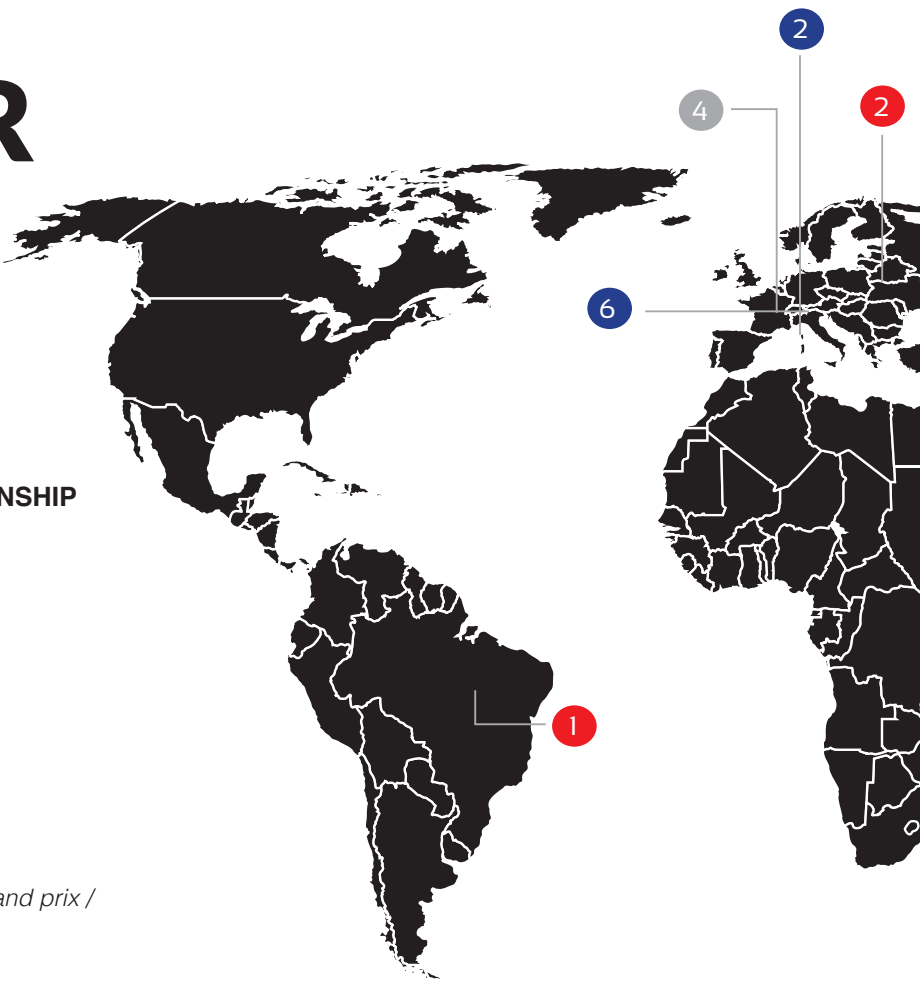
2013 CALENDAR

2013 looks set to be yet another ground-breaking and challenging season for H2O Racing, with over 20 events planned in ten months, taking its four UIM sanctioned 'flagship' Championships, Aquabike, Class 1, FIH2O and Nations Cup to four continents.

UIM F1H2O WORLD POWERBOAT CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 1/2 JUNE - Brasilia, Brazil
- 2 2/4 AUGUST - Kyiv, Ukraine *
- 3 14/15 SEPTEMBER - Shanghai, China
- 4 1/2 OCTOBER - Liuzhou, China
- 5 22/23 NOVEMBER - Doha, Qatar
- 6 28/29 NOVEMBER - Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 7 12/13 DECEMBER - Sharjah, UAE

**Kyiv, Ukraine - 2 august qualifying / 3 august grand prix / 4 august president's cup*



NEXT RACE

F1H2O

BRASILIA A GEM OF MODERNIST URBAN PLANNING

BRASILIA - BRAZIL
1 / 2 JUNE 2013

A planned city, Brasilia was constructed from 1956 to 1960, with Lucio Costa as the principal urban planner, Oscar Niemeyer as the principal architect and Roberto Burle Marx as the landscape designer, and formally became the national capital of Brazil on 22 April 1960.

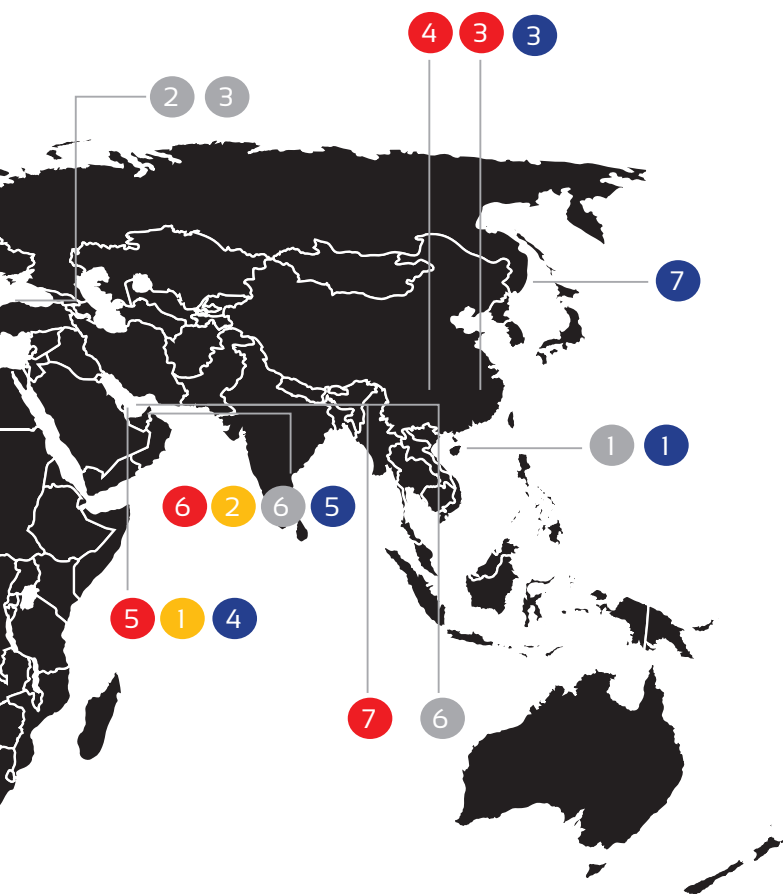
Situated in the Central Highlands of Brazil, it is a masterpiece of modernist architecture, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and attracts architecture aficionados worldwide.

Among the most beautiful buildings in the urban landscape of Brasilia are those sited around the Plaza of Three Powers, the Planalto Palace, or the Hall of Government, the Congress, with its twin skyscrapers flanked by the cupola of

the Senate building and by the inverted cone of the House of Representatives, and finally the Supreme Court.

Other structures of an exceptional artistic quality are the Esplanade of the Ministers, the cathedral, the Pantheon of Juscelino Kubitschek and the National Theatre.

As the national capital, Brasilia is the seat of all three branches of the Federal Government. The city also hosts the headquarters of many Brazilian companies, its design dividing it into blocks as well as sectors for specified activities, such as the Hotel sector, the Banking sector or the Embassy sector. Brasilia hosts 124 foreign embassies and is also an important transportation hub for travel within Brazil.



UIM NATIONS CUP

- 1 21/22 NOVEMBER - Doha, Qatar
- 2 30 NOVEMBER/1 DECEMBER – Abu Dhabi, UAE

UIM CLASS 1 WORLD POWERBOAT CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 28-30 MARCH - Sanya, Hainan Province, China
- 2 14-16 JUNE - Istanbul, Turkey
- 3 JULY - Istanbul, Turkey (tbc)
- 4 AUGUST - Mediterranean (tba)
- 5 NOVEMBER - Dubai, UAE (tbc)
- 6 5/6 DECEMBER - Abu Dhabi, UAE

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 28/30 MARCH - Sanya, Hainan Province, China *
 - 2 6/8 SEPTEMBER - Monte Carlo, Monaco
 - 3 3/5 OCTOBER - China (tbc)
 - 4 14/16 NOVEMBER - Doha Qatar
 - 5 3/4 DECEMBER – Abu Dhabi, UAE
- UIM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP**
- 6 2/4 AUGUST – Viverone, Italy
- UIM RALLY JET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**
- 7 13/17 AUGUST – Vladivostok, Russia

**Sanya, China – freestyle only*





CLASS 1

ISTANBUL

FAMOUS FOR ITS HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND MAGNIFICENT SCENIC BEAUTIES

ISTANBUL - TURKEY
14 / 16 JUNE 2013

Located in the centre of the Old World, Istanbul is one of the world's greatest cities and famous for its historical monuments and magnificent scenic beauties.

It is the only city in the world which spreads over two continents: it lies at a point where Asia and Europe are separated by a narrow strait - the Bosphorus. Istanbul has a history of over 2,500 years, and ever since its establishment on this strategic junction of lands and seas, the city has been a crucial trade centre.

The historic city of Istanbul is situated on a peninsula flanked on three sides by the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. It has been the capital of three great empires, the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires, and for more than 1,600 years over

FIH2O

KYIV - UKRAINE
2 / 4 AUGUST 2013

KYIV

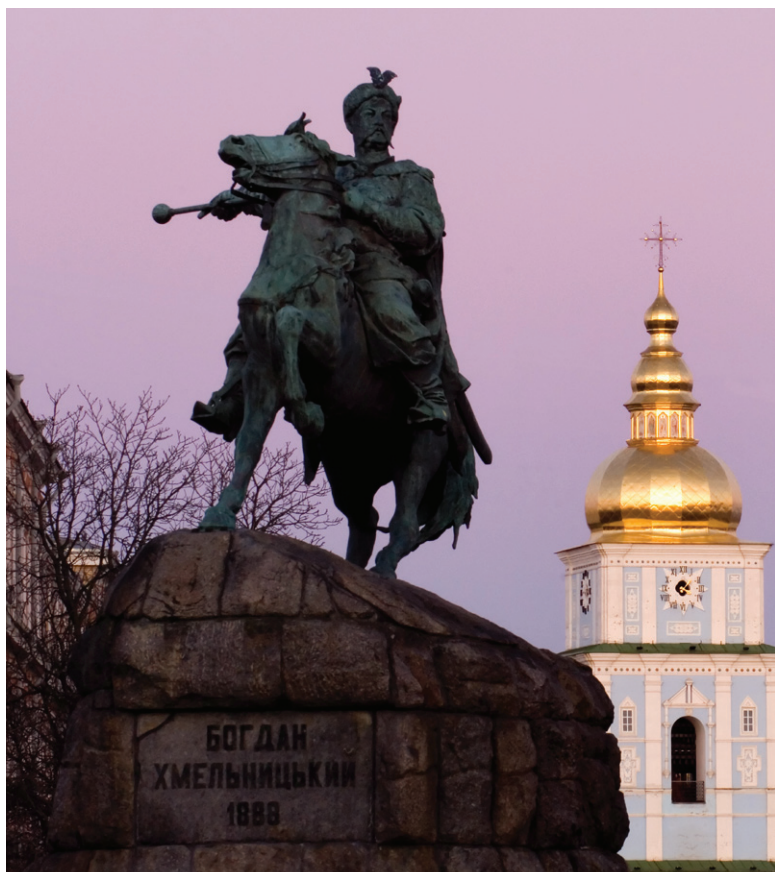
A CITY OF WORLD TREASURES

One of the biggest cities in Europe with a population of over 3 million and located on the shores of the Dnipro River, Kyiv is the bustling capital of independent Ukraine and its administrative, economic, scientific, cultural and educational centre.

The art and architecture of the city are considered world treasures. Its most famous landmarks include the Cathedral of St. Sophia, with its outstanding mosaics and frescoes dating back to the 11th century and the Golden Gate of Kyiv, which dates back to 1037.

Kyiv is distinguished by its rich cultural life. Theatre lovers will find many venues offering various theatrical programmes with ballet, Ukrainian drama, comedy, and musicals.

Kyiv is also the scientific and educational centre of independent Ukraine and home to the famous Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.



120 emperors and sultans ruled the world from here. No other city in the world can claim such a distinction.

During its development, the city was enlarged four times, each time the city walls being rebuilt further to the west.

Surrounded by 5th century Roman city walls and stretching over seven hills, Istanbul is adorned by the masterpieces of Turkish art, the great mosques of the Sultans that crown the hills. The city presents an exquisite, majestic and serene silhouette from all directions.

The Golden Horn, which is a very secure natural harbor, has played a significant role in the development of the city.

Fortune provided such advantages to Istanbul as a location at a junction where the main overland routes reach the sea, an easily defensible peninsula, an ideal climate, a rich and generous nature, control of the strategic Bosphorus, and a central geographical position in the ancient world.

As a capital of empires, the city was not only an administrative, but also a religious centre.



AQUABIKE

VLADIVOSTOK - RUSSIA
13 / 17 AUGUST 2013

VLADIVOSTOK ONE OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE CITIES IN RUSSIA

Vladivostok is one of the most picturesque and attractive cities in Russia and today it is a modern city that draws tourists from all over the world attracted by its unique nature, lovely sceneries, loose military-historical monuments and the of sea.

Vladivostok is a very special city. Founded on the junction of land and sea, Europe and Asia, it is strikingly different from most Russian cities. It is notable for its unique geographical location and the breathtaking panoramas from the top of the hills that constitute the main attraction of the Primorsky Krai's capital.

Another sight that makes Vladivostok inimitable is the port, located on the picturesque banks of the Zolotoy Rog Bay. The port of Vladivostok is the most charming in the evening, when it is illuminated with a myriad of emerald lights on boats, moorings

and harbor cranes. In addition, the sea offers fabulous views of the city, as it soars out of the water: hundreds of colorful houses clinging to the slopes of the hills, the knolls silhouetted in the light morning mist.

Vladivostok's mind-boggling nature makes the city even more attractive for tourists. It is absolutely unique and can't be found in any other part of the word. Incredibly beautiful sea views, blue-and-emerald bays, mysterious mountains and ridges and protected areas where rare animals live.

Vladivostok's architecture is also unique and downtown, true architectural masterpieces stand out - ancient mansions and fabulous gothic cathedrals. Vladivostok is famous for being the city of monuments and statues.



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