



## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Ref: n. 05 \ 2018

To: The International Boating Press, Nautical Industry, UIM National Authorities, UIM Council Members, UIM Promoters and Partners.



### WORLD'S BEST POWERBOAT RACERS HONOURED AT 2018 UIM AWARDS GIVING GALA

MONACO: The world's best powerboat racers saw their achievements recognised by their sporting peers at the 9<sup>th</sup> Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) World Champions Awards Giving Gala, staged at the iconic Sporting Monte-Carlo, Monaco.

The 2017 World Champions were joined by 400 special guests as VIPs from the boating industry, sport, media and business who attended the annual star-studded event sponsored by BUND Holding Group -China, H2O Racing and UNICEF.

The new Powerboat Champions received their trophies in recognition of their performance during the 2017 season in the presence of special guests Sergey Bubka, Senior Vice President of the IAAF and the Ukraine's Olympic gold medalist and six-time Pole Vault World Champion, and three-time Olympic shooting champion Niccolò Campriani of Italy.



From left to right : Raimondo Di San Germano, H2O Racing Marketing & Business development Director, Mrs. Yao Bimin, Chairman of the Board of China Overseas Capital Group, Aleksandar Petrovic, Powerboat Federation of Montenegro Secretary General, Quinten Bossche and Daniel Svae Anderen 2017 Aquabike Class pro Circuit – Ski Division GP1- GP3 and GP2 World Champions respectively.

#### Union Internationale Motonautique

1, avenue des Castelans - Stade Louis II - Entrée H - MC 98000 Monaco  
Tél. +377 92 05 25 22 - [uim@uimpowerboating.com](mailto:uim@uimpowerboating.com) - [www.uimpowerboating.com](http://www.uimpowerboating.com)

"The annual UIM Awards Giving Ceremony and Gala Dinner is undoubtedly one of the biggest appointment on the international powerboat season calendar," said UIM President Dr Chiulli. "We believe in celebrating and honouring the achievements of our World Champions and we are proud to share this evening with the distinguished drivers."

In addition to honouring the 2017 World Champions, the UIM also announced the winners of the Driver and Junior Driver of The Year Awards, Rasmus Haugasmägi and fellow Estonian Stefan Arand respectively.

The most honorable distinction, the UIM Stefano Casiraghi Memorial Trophy, was awarded to Nicolo di San Germano of H2O Racing in recognition of his outstanding and enduring commitment to the sport of powerboat racing. With more than 30 years dedicated to this sport, di San Germano is a familiar figure to everyone in powerboat racing having played a pioneering role in the organization, management and promotion of classes across the board including F1, Aquabike, Class One and the Nations Cup.

The UIM Safety Award was handed over to the Osprey Powerboat Rescue Team, the UK-based powerboat rescue experts who have more than 50 years' experience as one of the world's leading rescue teams for watersport activities. They provide a vital rescue service at UK and global powerboat race meetings, while its members also provide expert medical, scuba and boat driving training.

The UIM Gala also offered powerboat racing's world governing body the platform to announce its new CSR initiative in cooperation with UNESCO. The development of a toolkit to help implement the Kazan Action Plan in sport with focus on the areas of youth, sustainability, inclusion and equality.



2017 UIM XCAT World Champions Salem Al Addidi and Eisa Al Ali awarded by Lu Chan, Baia Blu d'Oriente President and Huraiz Bin Huraiz UAE Marine Sports Federation President



UIM Driver and Junior Driver of the year 2017 Rasmus Haugasmägi and Stefan Arand Awarded by UIM President, Dr. Raffaele Chiulli and Mr. Sergey Bubka



Mr. Nicolo Di San Germano was awarded with the 2017 UIM Stefano Casiraghi Memorial Trophy by Marco Casiraghi and Raffaele Chiulli



Robert Irvine, Osprey Powerboat Rescue Team Chairman was handed over the 2017 UIM Safety Award by Huraiz Bin Huraiz, UAE Marine Sports Federation President and Jean-Marc Giraldi, UIM Vice-President

#### **Union Internationale Motonautique**

1, avenue des Castelans - Stade Louis II - Entrée H - MC 98000 Monaco  
Tél. +377 92 05 25 22 - [uim@uimpowerboating.com](mailto:uim@uimpowerboating.com) - [www.uimpowerboating.com](http://www.uimpowerboating.com)