PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday 2nd November

Startup x Investor Day returns to boot Düsseldorf in 2027 as applications open

Yachting Ventures and European Boating Industry will bring founders, investors and industry leaders together on 26 January 2027.

Yachting Ventures (YV) and European Boating Industry (EBI) are once again joining forces for Startup x Investor Day at boot Düsseldorf, returning to the Blue Innovation Dock on Tuesday 26 January 2027.

Building on previous editions, the event will create opportunities for leisure-marine founders to meet investors face-to-face, showcase their businesses and explore the realities of fundraising and growth.

The 2027 programme will retain its combination of founder insights, startup pitches and investor perspectives, with additional networking opportunities being developed to help attendees make the most of the day.

Founder keynote from Jack Molyneux of IDOSY

The day will open with a keynote from Jack Molyneux of IDOSY, who will share lessons from his founder journey and the company's recent raise.

Drawing on his experience building a business in the yachting sector, Jack will offer a practical perspective on navigating fundraising and developing relationships with investors. His session will set the scene for a programme designed to encourage open conversations between founders and the people who can support their next stage of growth.

Commenting on his participation in the event, Jack Molyneux said, *"Not every investor will be the right fit, and that's fine. The ones who matter are those who share your vision and will back you through the challenges as well as the wins. I'm looking forward to sharing what I learned along the way, and hopefully helping other founders go into their next raise with more confidence and clarity."*

Connecting founders and investors

Following the keynote, selected startups will take to the stage for a pitch competition, presenting their businesses to a jury of investors and industry experts.

The programme will also feature investor reverse pitches, giving founders a chance to hear directly from investors about their interests, priorities and approach to assessing opportunities.

A founder panel will explore the challenges and decisions involved in growing a leisure-marine business, bringing practical experience into the conversation.

Together, these sessions will give attendees opportunities to present their own businesses, ask questions and build a better understanding of the investment landscape.

More time for conversations

For 2027, the organisers are developing a format that brings networking to both ends of the programme: a coffee networking session before the main event and a reception afterwards.

The two sessions are intended to provide greater flexibility for attendees navigating busy show schedules, while creating more time for introductions and follow-up conversations.

Networking timings and the reception venue will be announced once confirmed.
Gabbi Richardson, Founder of Yachting Ventures, said:
"Our Startup x Investor Day is a great way to kick off the new year, bringing founders, investors and industry leaders together to build connections and create momentum for the months ahead. We're seeing more startups than ever before entering the leisure-marine sector, making these opportunities increasingly valuable. Our collaboration with EBI has gone from strength to strength over the years, and we're excited to build on that success in 2027, with more time for conversations and relationships that continue beyond the show."
Philip Easthill, Secretary-General of EBI, said:

"Innovation in our industry also depends on giving new companies the right opportunities to grow. Access to investment, industry expertise and established businesses can make a real difference for startups looking to bring their ideas to market. Through the Startup x Investor Day, we want to facilitate those connections and make the Blue Innovation Dock a place where new ideas can develop into concrete business opportunities."

Applications open

Applications for the 2027 pitch competition are now open and will close on 4th December 2026, with selected startups confirmed before Christmas.

Founders developing products and services for the leisure-marine sector are invited to apply.

The competition offers an opportunity to gain visibility, receive feedback and start conversations with investors and industry partners.

A £550 participation fee applies to each selected pitching startup. Further details on the jury, competition and wider programme will be shared ahead of the event.

Interested startups can apply to pitch here.

For more information, contact gabriella@yachtingventures.co.

–

Notes to Editor:

Please follow this link to access imagery.

For more information, please contact:
Gabriella Richardson
gabriella@yachtingventures.co
+34 711 041 426

About Yachting Ventures

Yachting Ventures (YV) is the leading accelerator platform driving innovation across the leisure marine industry. Offering a founder community, strategic marketing, and partnerships with leading industry events, YV helps startups launch, scale, and gain global visibility. YV has supported over 500 companies across 25 countries and cultivated an audience of more than 20,000 followers interested in leisure marine technology.

About EBI

European Boating Industry (EBI) represents the recreational boating and nautical tourism sector in Europe, with 24 national associations and 14 sustaining members. Speaking for the entire value chain, EBI works with European institutions and stakeholders to advance a sustainable boating and nautical tourism industry Made in Europe. EBI helps shape the future of recreational boating and nautical tourism in Europe through advocacy, sustainability initiatives, regulatory guidance, event platforms, studies and industry collaboration.
The sector includes approximately 32,000 companies, over 18,000 marinas, supports 280,000 direct jobs, and enables 48 million people to enjoy boating and water sports each year.

About boot Düsseldorf

With more than 200,000 visitors from over 100 countries and 1,500 exhibitors on 220,000 square meters in Halls 1 to 17, boot Düsseldorf is the world's largest yacht and water sports fair. Both sailors and motor boaters will find a wide variety of boats, dinghies, super boats or luxury yachts. The popular water sports of diving, surfing, kite surfing, stand up paddling, skimboarding or canoeing are available at boot in all facets and with the appropriate equipment. Attractive stage programs with the stars of the scene, the latest

trends and a high-caliber mix of workshops and hands-on activities, both for leisure sports enthusiasts and experts, make the fair unique worldwide. But marine conservation and innovative, sustainable technologies will also be in focus at boot 2027.