

## News Release

### For Immediate Release

28 February 2023

### Stage is set to highlight green innovation at the South Coast & Green Tech Boat Show

Simplifying the complexities of green technologies and introducing a selection of eco-friendly products, boating experts and marine entrepreneurs will be taking to the stage in the Innovation Hub at this year's South Coast & Green Tech Boat Show, 21-23 April, at MDL's Ocean Village Marina.

#### Exciting schedule of talks and demonstrations

Kicking off the exciting schedule of talks and presentations is Dr Stephen Weatherley from Archipelago Yachts. He'll be discussing the future of marine fuels, focusing on methanol and its conversion to hydrogen via reforming technology to help decarbonise the marine industry.

Wilf Chaplin, from sailmaker One Sails, will be discussing sustainable sails and how, with appropriate planning, maintenance and use, you can minimise the cost and environmental impact of your sail wardrobe over the life of your boat ownership.

Visitors to the show can also hear from celebrated yacht designer Nigel Irens. Having spent his life designing high performance racing yachts, including Ellen MacArthur's trimaran, Nigel has turned his attention to building the low emissions eight metre CLARA Boat which he will be introducing at the show.

Committed to building eco-friendly watercraft that are as sustainable as possible, Charlie Hall from Pixii Electric Boats will take to the Innovation Hub stage to highlight the company's first boat, the SP800. Built using recycled materials, it's been designed to deliver a unique on-water experience, while minimising its impact on the environment.

Following three years of development, Optima Projects will be launching a prototype of its 10-metre ultra-efficient electric cruising boat, designed for use over an extended range. Founder, David Kendall, says: "I'm delighted to be able to present our new prototype at the South Coast & Green Tech Boat Show. The show, and specifically the Innovation Hub, offers us the unique opportunity to reach people who are actively seeking greener options, as well

as capture a wider boating audience who may not yet be aware of the alternatives available to them." David will also present details of future projects, including larger leisure boats and a fleet of electric water taxis to cover the whole of the Solent region.

For those wanting to make their boating activities as sustainable as possible, The Green Blue's Kate Fortnam will be asking people to join her for two interesting and informative talks.

Delivered as part of the LIFE Recreation Project and led by Natural England, 'Protecting our Marine Habitats: Anchoring & Mooring with Care' will focus on the Solent Maritime site and the seagrass meadow that exists there. Boaters can find out how to protect this fragile ecosystem through the use of eco-friendly anchoring methods and the installation of Advanced Mooring Systems.

'The Green Blue Boating Pledge - Respecting, Protecting and Enjoying our Waters' will introduce the Boating Pledge to visitors and share some of the environmental best practices any boat owner can adopt to protect our waters.

CEO of RS Electric Boats, Jon Partridge, will be presenting RS Electric Boats' future plans before opening the floor to a Q&A on what people are looking for in an electric powered vessel.

To see the full line up of speakers and the daily timetable visit:

<https://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk/events/innovation-hub/>

### **The Future of Boating panel discussion**

Jon Partridge and Kate Fortnam will also form part of the team of experts for the new Future of Boating panel discussion, taking place in the Innovation Hub at 12.00pm on Friday 21 April. Joining Jon and Kate will be Tim Mayer from MDL Marinas and Jamie Marley from Marine Electrification Solutions. Jamie works with businesses and organisations to support them in their journey to understanding, integrating and benefitting from electric and hybrid marine propulsion.

"Marine decarbonisation has begun, but in order for it to meet net zero targets we must collaborate, and share experiences and knowledge," says Jamie. "In this way, we'll future proof the marine industry to ride out the ultimate storm, climate change. I'm delighted to

be taking part in this panel discussion which brings together a variety of industry experts, who have the environment and the marine industry at their hearts.”

### **Green Innovator Award presentation**

The winner of the second Green Innovator Award will be announced on Saturday 22 April at 12.35pm in the Innovation Hub. Nominations are still open for the award which aims to distinguish products and services that are pioneering in sustainability, innovation and design.

To nominate a business or cast a vote, visit <https://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk/green-award/>. Voting closes on Friday 21 April.

Tickets to the South Coast & Green Tech Boat Show are free and can be booked via <https://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk/events/boat-show-tickets/>. Appointments to view specific boats or meet with the individual exhibitors can also be arranged via a booking portal on the website.

For a full list of confirmed exhibitors to the South Coast & Green Tech Boat Show 2023 visit: [www.mdlboatshow.co.uk](http://www.mdlboatshow.co.uk)

Exhibitor space at the show is now limited. Companies interested in exhibiting at the South Coast & Green Tech Boat Show in April should contact Tim Mayer via [T.Mayer@mdlmarinas.co.uk](mailto:T.Mayer@mdlmarinas.co.uk)

**Ends**

### **Notes for editors:**

#### **MDL Marinas Group Ltd**

- MDL Marinas Group is the UK's leading marina and water-based leisure provider and one of Europe's largest marina groups, offering members over 160 destinations to cruise to in the UK, France and Spain. Currently MDL Marinas manages 18 UK marinas and one in Spain.
- MDL Holidays is part of the MDL Marinas Group, offering waterside holidays in luxury lodge and holiday park accommodation.
- New to the MDL Marinas Group, MDL Fitness is a range of green gyms where the fitness equipment converts human kinetic energy into electricity.
- MDL Marinas Group is proud to be landlords to over 500 marine businesses, with over 260 staff delivering the unique MDL experience to all berth holders, visitors and commercial partners.
- The company also advises on worldwide marina developments.
- For more information visit [www.mdlmarinas.co.uk](http://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk)

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