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**IBEX 2014 REPORTS 47 PERCENT INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE**

*24th annual International BoatBuilders' Exhibition & Conference sees growth in all areas*

**BROOKLIN, ME, October 8, 2014** – Organizers of the [International BoatBuilders' Exhibition & Conference \(IBEX\)](#) announced today the 2014 event, which took place in Tampa September 30 through October 2, attracted 6,900 attendees, a 47 percent increase compared to 2013. IBEX, the industry's premier trade show, drew marine industry professionals from around the globe to learn about and explore the newest in marine innovation from 558 exhibiting companies – a 15 percent increase in exhibitor participation compared to the 2013 show.

"IBEX in Tampa offered an impressive increase in our attendance and exhibitor participation and a significant WOW factor," said Anne Dunbar, Show Director of IBEX. "The new products and technologies introduced this year were incredible, and you could feel the excitement and enthusiasm all three days of the show."

In addition to the spike in attendance and exhibitors, seminar registration was up with more than 500 attendees participating, an increase of six percent from 2013; and there was a 35 percent increase in international attendance from 2013.

The growth of the 2014 IBEX was a reflection of the state of the boating industry. Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), who presented at the Industry Breakfast, stated, "We're anticipating good times ahead for recreational boating. The industry continues to see healthy growth with retail expenditures increasing 3.2% in 2013 to \$36.9 billion. Americans are taking to the water in record numbers, and we're anticipating continued steady growth of 5-7% in new powerboat sales through 2014. Now is the time for marine innovation."

IBEX attendees were able to experience and learn about the latest products during the three-day event. There were a record number of new products on display and Innovation Awards' participants, as well as new on-the-water demonstrations, multiple networking events, and educational seminars and workshops.

The 2015 IBEX is scheduled to take place at the Kentucky Exposition Center, September 15 – 17, in Louisville, KY USA. For more information, please visit [ibexshow.com](http://ibexshow.com).

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**About IBEX:** Owned and produced by *Professional BoatBuilder* magazine and the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), IBEX is the marine industry's largest technical trade event. For boatbuilders, marine industry dealers, aftermarket suppliers and buyers, designers, repairers, surveyors, and boatyard/marine operators, IBEX is where better boats begin. For the latest information, visit [www.ibexshow.com](http://www.ibexshow.com).

**About *Professional BoatBuilder* magazine:** *Professional BoatBuilder*, a boatbuilding-industry trade magazine, was first published in 1989 in response to a growing need for a dedicated forum for boatbuilding-related professionals. The magazine's worldwide readership exceeds 24,000. *Professional BoatBuilder* is online at [www.proboat.com](http://www.proboat.com).

**About NMMA:** The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) is the leading association for the North American recreational boating industry. NMMA member companies produce more than 80 percent of the boats, engines, trailers, accessories and gear used by boaters in North America. The association is dedicated to industry growth through programs in public policy advocacy, market statistics and research, product quality assurance and promotion of the boating lifestyle. Learn more at [www.nmma.org](http://www.nmma.org).

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