



Electric Sofa Boat takes Visitors for an Eco-Spin at Abu Dhabi Yacht Show

While numerous golf carts and buggies toured the expansive new Yas Marina, home to the 2nd Abu Dhabi Yacht Show (ADYS), ferrying visitors and participants to and from the berthed superyachts and surrounding pontoons, the most exciting transit vehicle in demand was a floating electric sofa.

The electric Sofa Boat, whose maiden voyage took place enroute to ADYS, is a 3.5m 'floating fun platform' – designed, developed and built in the UAE with a folding sun canopy covering the seating area, joystick steering, and a soft-foam bumper to allow the boat to maneuver among other craft in crowded marinas.

"I wanted to offer boats that were enjoyable to women and families – low noise, easy-to-handle craft that are perfect for quiet sundowners or a more glamorous arrival at a private yacht than in a tender," says Dr Martin Mai, Managing Director, Abra Marine, the boat's designer and manufacturer. "The boat is completely powered by electricity and has 0% carbon-dioxide emissions. It can be charged via an electric socket and has batteries that give it 12 hours of continuous power. We also have a solar-powered version in development," added Dr Mai.

The solar-powered version will run by the power generated by seven square metre solar panels that generate 1,000W peak electric energy, with the ability to run for up to 10-hours. The company also offers a 'B2B' version of the sofa boat – complete with laptop docking points and a fridge for refreshments on the go, perfect for those extremely confidential business meetings out at sea.

Capt. Berend Lens van Rijn, CEO of Belevari Marine, the Abu Dhabi-based marine consultancy, charter, brokerage and service company responsible for bringing this concept boat to ADYS, says the company is currently in talks to set up a charter licence to charter the boats in Abu Dhabi. "Hopefully, we will soon be able to see these boats on the Corniche in the UAE capital," says Capt. Lens van Rijn.

The basic model is offered at AED59,000 with add-on customisation options such as luxurious leather seats, refreshment tables, a stereo system onboard or a two-sofa configuration.

Editors Notes:

Abu Dhabi Yacht Show

The Abu Dhabi Yacht Show (ADYS) is a show with a specific focus on superyachts and megayachts. With this unique, first-to-market formula, the ADYS sets a new standard in the world of yachting industry events and provide a world-class superyacht and megayacht show distinguishing it from other yacht and boat shows across the globe.

The inaugural show in March 2009 opened to an enthusiastic reception and went onto impress exhibitors, industry experts, press and visitors alike over a course of three days. By general consensus, it provided a wealth of first-class business opportunities and catered to the highest industry requirements for quality, exclusivity and style. ADYS 2009 saw sales of vessels totaling over US\$100 million (AED 368 million), confirming the growing importance of Abu Dhabi as a leading superyacht and megayacht destination, and establishing ADYS as the premier event in the Middle East region for viewing the world's largest and most exclusive private yachts.

For more information and full exhibitor list, please log on to www.abudhabi yachtshow.com

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