

The Barcelona Clúster Nàutic leads the economic recovery in the marine industry in Spain

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The association of Barcelona's companies related to the nautical sector, the Barcelona Clúster Nàutic, adds more than 65 members two years after its creation. The growth of the cluster is analogous to the sector, which following the deep economic crisis that went through, it's recovering led by his epicentre in Barcelona, where it converges industry, companies, institutions and research centres with a high potential for generating wealth and added value. According to the president and the CEO of the Barcelona Clúster Nàutic, Toni Tió and Alejo Trullás, respectively, this recovery will become visible in the Barcelona International Boat Show, which will take place in the Port Vell from October 14th to 18th.

With the Town Hall and the Port of Barcelona, Barcelona Regional, Marina Barcelona 92, Marina Port Vell, the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), the Consorci El Far and Barcelona Foundation for Ocean Sailing (FNOB) as promoters members, the Barcelona Cluster Nàutic was established in October 2013 with the aim of turning the marine activity into one of the engines of the city's economy, its metropolitan area and the country.

In fact, according to the study "The nautical cluster: business analysis and economic impact" prepared by the Office of Economic and Infrastructure Studies of Barcelona's Chamber of Commerce, the companies linked to the nautical sector of Barcelona's metropolitan area, a total of 305, have a turnover of 465 million Euros and generate a total turnover of 836 millions. This is considering the direct, indirect and induced impact, plus creating around 8,300 jobs.

This report, which dates from April this year, is the first one to make an estimate of the marine sector's economic impact, in terms of production and employment, in the entire economy of Barcelona.

According to the study, it is expected that in the next three years marine companies will make investments worth 89 million Euros, which would have an impact on the aggregate production in the metropolitan area of 210 million Euros and would benefit creating 525 jobs (direct and indirect), a figure that could rise up to 1,586 taking into account the total impact.

We would need to add to these figures the economic impact of the expenditure that will generate the boats moored in Port Vell, once the expansion work is completed. It's estimated they will generate an annual expenditure of 470 million Euros, of which two thirds will fall on the city's economy.

At the same time, the activity of cruise ships in Barcelona generates a total turnover of 796 million Euros and contributes to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Catalonia with 413.2 million Euros per year, according to the results of a study presented last September by the Port of Barcelona and developed by the Laboratory of Applied Economics AQR-Lab at the University of Barcelona, in collaboration with Barcelona's Tourism board.

"All these data lead us to say that the marine industry in Barcelona is not only in full recovery, but also has enormous potential to generate employment and competitiveness for the city", said the president of the Barcelona Clúster Nàutic, Toni Tió.

The Barcelona Clúster Nàutic works in partnership with the National Association of Marine Companies (ANEN). According to the management's data, the registrations of recreational boat have grown by 10.5% in the first nine months of this year, compared to the same period last year. "This is the second nautical season with positive figures for the marine market, a situation we haven't lived since 2007, and we hope that this reality is also reflected in the results of the Barcelona International Boat Show", explains its general secretary, Carlos Sanlorenzo.

The Barcelona Clúster Nàutic's management will hold important meetings, during the Barcelona International Boat Show, with key industry agents in order to continue promoting its competitiveness.

For interviews with the Barcelona Clúster Nàutic's management, Toni Tió or Alejo Trullàs, on the occasion of the Barcelona International Boat Show, please contact Neus Jordi:

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