

A Red Bull Air Race plane is shown from a high-angle, top-down perspective, flying over a coastal city and harbor. The plane is blue with yellow and red accents, featuring the Red Bull logo on the nose and 'Red Bull' written on the fuselage. The harbor below is filled with numerous ships and industrial structures. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

GDYNIA |

ECHO

**QUARTERLY NEWS FROM GDYNIA, POLAND
THE CITY MADE OF DREAMS AND THE SEA**

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ISSUED BY GDYNIA CITY HALL

RED BULL AIR RACE IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED AS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



While the Gdynia stage of the Red Bull Air Race is fast approaching, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale officially recognised the whole series of events as a World Championship.

Photo by Łukasz Nazdraczew/Red Bull Content Pool

The organisers of the Red Bull Air Race and the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) signed an agreement under which the Red Bull Air Race has been recognised as a World Championship. "We are very happy to have the chance to participate in such an exciting event which attracts so many people and has such great potential in terms of the promotion of air sports" – said the FAI President, John Grubbström.

The FAI oversees world-class international competitions and air events. It is engaged in determining world standards regarding air sports and certifies world aviation and space records. The agreement includes a provision according to which the FAI shall approve all Red Bull Air Race World Championship rules and regulations for 2014. All races from the 2014 Red Bull Air Race season will appear in the official FAI Events Calendar. With FAI backing, the Red Bull Air Race World Championship receives support

for safety supervision at all races. The Federation will also provide specially designed medals for Red Bull Air Race podium winners at each race.

"The FAI, as an international federation responsible for air sports recognised by the Olympic Committee, will sanction the race and serve for the team of Red Bull Air Race by its expertise in terms of safety, rules and regulations" – explains Mr Grubbström. "I am sure that both organisations, and thus also all air sports, will gain much from that cooperation. I look forward to the first race of the season in Abu Dhabi" – he concluded.

Just to remind everyone, the Gdynia stage of the Red Bull Air Race will take place between 25 and 27 July 2014. Read more about RBAR at: www.redbullairrace.com

FESTIVE CELEBRATION OF GDYNIA'S 88TH BIRTHDAY



Photo by Jakub Ubych

On 10 February 1926, Gdynia was granted municipal rights by the Council of Ministers. Our city is already more than 88 years old. Official celebrations were held on that occasion: members of local government laid bouquets of flowers at the Polish Mariner memorial plaque, and there was also a ceremonial Session of the City Council. Students of Gdynia Independent Secondary School (Liceum Autorskie STO) invited the residents of Gdynia to enjoy a toast with hot chocolate at Infobox. There were also concerts, lectures and writing birthday cards...

Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski Medals for "Outstanding Services for Gdynia" were granted during ceremonial Session of the City Council of Gdynia held in the City Theatre.

The following persons were honoured with the award: **Teresa Kamińska, Elżbieta Kruszewska** and **Aleksander Rzyński**.

Honorary citizenship was granted to **Andrzej Kołodziej**.



Photo by Maciek Czarniak

The award of the Chairman of the City Council „The Time of Gdynia” for the best investment in 2013 was granted to Maryland Real Estate for Riviera Shopping Centre in Gdynia.

It is the largest city centre in the Northern Poland and one of the largest in Central and Eastern Europe.

“The Time of Gdynia” distinctions were granted to:

- **Energomontaż - Północ, sp. z o.o.**, for a production hall with equipment for mechanical processing and rolling located at Czechosłowacka Street No. 3;

- **Szpital Morski im. PCK**, (Maritime Hospital) for the medical treatment facility of the Gdynia Oncology Centre;

- **Zarząd Morskiego Portu Gdynia S.A.** (Port of Gdynia Authority) for office buildings at Polska Street No. 13 and 13A.



Riviera Center in Gdynia/Press material by Maryland real Estate

“The Time of Gdynia” award in the architecture category was granted to Arch-Deco sp. z o.o. study for designs of office and services buildings “Nowe Orłowo” at Zwycięstwa Avenue in Gdynia.

This is a complex of modern office and services buildings located in Orłowo district. Its characteristic features are modern architecture and high standards of finishing. The complex adds to the prestigious character of the district, where-as its style refers to the modernist look of Gdynia.



„Nowe Orłowo”/ designer - Arch-Deco sp. z o.o./developer - Invest Komfort

“The Time of Gdynia” distinctions, in architecture category were also granted to:

- **KENTON ARCH** design studio for the project to modernise the office building of the Baltic Port of New Technologies at Czechosłowacka Street No. 3.

- **Elżbieta and Wojciech Miller** for the design of an office building at Podlaska Street No. 1 in Gdynia.

- **Pracownia Architektoniczna „AA” s.c. Agnieszka Błażko Andrzej Błażko** (architectural studio) for the design of the residential building LI-GHHOUSE at Norwida Street No. 13.

DAR MŁODZIEŻY – AN AMBASSADOR OF THE OPERATION GDYNIA SAILS

Dar Młodzieży has been appointed the honorary ambassador of the Operation Gdynia Sails. The white frigate of Gdynia Maritime University will promote this unique event in all ports which the ship visits.



Dar Młodzieży/Photo by Tomasz Degórski

This year, Gdynia is inviting sailors from all over the world to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the tall ships races being organised for the first time in Poland and also for the first time in Eastern Europe. Operation Gdynia Sails, the name given to the event in 1974, could not be held in Gdynia, had it not been for Dar Pomorza winning the regatta organised two years earlier. The frigate now over 100 years old is on a well-deserved retirement and its function has been taken over by the ship's younger "sister" – Dar Młodzieży. Hence the idea that Dar Młodzieży, being the "active heir" of Dar Pomorza has been granted the title of the Ambassador of Operation Gdynia Sails. The ship will host the great flotilla of more than 20 sailing ships from all over Europe, which are to moor in Gdynia between **15 and 18 August**. On the last day of the event, Dar Młodzieży will head the parade of sailing ships.

On 17 February, Dar Młodzieży went on her first

voyage this year. A huge flag of Gdynia will be raised in each of the ports she visits, promoting the city and the sailing ships rally – Operation Gdynia Sails.

In this year's season, lasting 8.5 month, as many as 1140 trainees will have a chance to gain the necessary experience on board Dar Młodzieży.

The ship's route is to cover 14 foreign ports (Antwerp, Funchal, Bremerhaven, Hamburg, Fredericia, Kiel, Harlingen, Fredrikstad, Bergen, Esbjerg, Rostock, Falmouth, Greenwich, Stockholm). In June, Dar Młodzieży will honour with her presence Sea Days in Szczecin and Gdynia. Between 21 and 23 June at Pomorskie Quay, the ship will be "dressed", students will hoist the sails, and the deck will be open to visitors. The season has been planned to end on 30 October.

NEW MARINA IN GDYNIA



It is already known what the new marina in Gdynia will look like. Construction of the new building at Jana Pawła II Avenue will be completed by the end of 2017. It will host Gdynia's sailing clubs, a hotel, conference facilities, as well as restaurants and cafes.





The results of an architectural competition to design the new Marina building were announced on 28 January 2014. Four studios competed for the main award and Studio Kwadrat from Gdynia proved to offer the best project. The Jury presided over by an outstanding architect **Andrzej Bulanda** decided that the main advantage of the concept was the quiet, geometrised architecture referring directly to the features of local modernism, using, however, contemporary language and technologies.



Half of the 19 thousand sq. m. area will be used for activities related to sailing in the strict sense. The facilities will host the Gdynia sailing clubs – Centrum Wychowania Morskiego ZHP, Gryf, Stal, YKP Gdynia and MKŻ Arka. Each of them will have at their disposal an area of 1.2 thousand sq. m.

The remaining part of the building will serve as a hotel (approx. 200 rooms), together with catering and commercial facilities. There will also be a conference centre and offices, and the office of Gdynia Marina.



Visualisations of new Marina in Gdynia/Studio Kwadrat

NEW HALL OF DAMEN SHIPYARDS GDYNIA

It is 64 meters long, almost 24 metres high, and the total construction cost did not exceed PLN 10 million. The Damen shipyard in Gdynia gained a new hall for the prefabrication of units, which will improve the conditions of work as well as the company's competitiveness.

The hall, located at the United States Quay, is large enough for prefabrication, as well as for equipping ships' hulls. For these reasons the shipyard will be able to broaden its offer to construction of mega yachts, requiring the highest level of precision, which is only possible to be achieved in an enclosed space.

There are two 32 tonnes gantry cranes with a lifting capacity of 50 tonnes, as well as a trestle bridge for section transport. The construction performed by All-con company lasted only 10 months. Damen intends to construct two more halls in the near future so that ultimately its entire production is brought inside.

Established in 1991, the company was one of the first private shipyards in Poland. Since 2009, it has been part of the Dutch shipyard holding company Damen. It currently provides full time employment to 86 people. To date, the company has constructed over 80 units of different types – ranging from tugs, to patrol vessels for the Border Guard, to rescue and specialist ships. For the last two years the shipyard has specialised in the construction of luxury motor yachts.



Press material/the Damen shypiard

PLANNERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE TO COME TO GDYNIA

In September, Gdynia is to host the 50th ISOCARP International Planning Congress. This will be the largest and the most prestigious meeting of the industry specialists, a gathering over 400 participants.

The Congress is organised by ISOCARP – the International Society of City and Regional Planners, bringing together experts from more than 80 countries. The leading theme of the meeting held between **23 and 26 September** are transformations taking place in urban areas at the interface between land and water. Hence the title: **Urban Transformations – Cities and Water.**

A four-person delegation of the ISOCARP Secretariat paid a visit to Gdynia to check the progress of the city's preparations for the event. The inspectors stated that the Pomeranian Science and Technology Park is a perfect location for all the activities planned for the congress: plenary sessions, thematic group meetings, executive committee meetings, professional exhibitions and presentations.

They decided to include in the official programme of the event a visit to Gdynia Infobox, which they believe to be the only example in Central Europe of the correct way of informing citizens about the issues related to the city's spatial development, particularly worthy of promotion.

ISOCARP, founded 50 years ago, has its registered office and permanent secretariat in the Hague in the Netherlands. It is worth mentioning that in the past the International Planning Congresses have been held in countries such as Australia (Brisbane), Russia (Perm) and China (Wuhan). Six counties, including Durban and Singapore competed with Gdynia for the organisation of this year's edition of the event.

POLISH EAGLES BACK TO POLISH STREET NO. 1

The Maritime Station – the future seat of the Emigration Museum in Gdynia – has regained its pre-war shape. The missing north-western part of the building, destroyed during the bombardment in World War II, has been reconstructed. From now on, the facade of the Station is decorated with historic bas reliefs featuring Polish Eagles again. It is a symbolic moment of the return to former glory of a place extremely important to both Gdynia and the history of Polish emigration.



Photo by Barbara Ostrowska

An important phase of the reconstruction of the Maritime Station has been completed – the building's corner was noticeably deformed and its shape has been rebuilt. Thus, the front facade of the future seat of the Emigration Museum of Gdynia has regained its former looks and harmonious symmetry. The changes are also visible inside the building – the missing waterfront floor has been reconstructed and in future, it will serve as a museum restaurant with views to the sea.

The elevation of this side of the building has been intensively remodelled as well, the changes giving this 80 year old building a modern look. The framework, that will be used for the mounting of a glass wall, has been put in place – it will replace the old brick elevation that has not been preserved. Also the steelwork of the original viewpoint – a glass tunnel from the Transit Warehouse – has been erected. It will establish an architectural reference to the historic gangway that passengers used to use to board ships.

The dialogue with the past has also been reconnected by restoring the original Polish symbolic representation to the facade. **The building – with the symbolic address, Gdynia, Polska Street No. 1 is again decorated with bas reliefs featuring eagles,** thus reminding everyone that this building has played an important part in the history of Polish emigration – knowledge of which this Museum aims to popularise. Weighing 850 kg the eagles have been carved out of natural stone – their restoration has been based on archive photographs. In the 1930s, to all citizens of Gdynia as well as passenger ships arriving at the port, they served as a symbol of a country deserving of its presence by the Baltic sea. This intention was also clear to German occupants, who quickly removed them together with other Polish interior accents right after marching into the city in 1939.

In 1942, the building housed Kriegsmarine offices. In October of the following year, bombs of an Allied air raid fell on the Station.

The north-western part of the building was severely damaged – it was not reconstructed until 2013.



Historical photo of the Maritime Station/Press releases Muzeum of Gdynia Maritime Station/Photo by Barbara Ostrowska

Transformation of the Maritime Station and the adjacent Transit Warehouse began in May 2013 and covers restoration, renovation and adaptation works, aimed at preparing this historic building to be a platform for a modern and multi-purpose institution.

The total cost of the investment is PLN 49.3 million, of which around PLN 23.8 million is financed with EU funds under the JESSICA initiative. **The Emigration Museum in Gdynia will be inaugurated in the Maritime Station at the end of 2014 and beginning of 2015.**

INTERACTIVE PORTAL FOR GDYNIA SENIORS ALREADY LAUNCHED!

On the occasion of Grandma's and Grandpa's Day, the senior citizens of Gdynia received a very unique gift this year. The Senior Activity Centre in Gdynia was brought into operation and is the first interactive portal in Poland created specifically for seniors by seniors.

The website www.seniorplus.gdynia.pl is not only addressed to but, what is most important, it is co-created by the community of Gdynia seniors. It provides information on the city's attractions prepared for older people and

moreover, it is also where they have a chance to share their ideas as to how to make their getting older interesting, creative, healthy and beautiful!

EMIGRANTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CAN SHARE THEIR STORIES ONLINE – 24 HOURS A DAY

The Polish Diaspora is believed to embrace over 20 million people all over the world. Each of them have their own fascinating story to tell – sometimes happy, other times rough. Now, they can be the co-authors of the Internet Emigrant's Archive kept by the Emigration Museum.

The Emigrant's Archive was established last year. The Emigration Museum gathers stories of Polish people who for various reasons went abroad where they found their "place on earth". It is a record of Polish migration experiences – regarding adjustment which have had to be made in a new place, searching for a home, work, first friendships or love... The stories, after any necessary editing, are presented on the museum's website. So far, the collection comprises several dozen of stories from all over the world. These are stories, sound records and films, describing in a very attractive way how the journey has changed the emigrants' lives. A few dozen of interviews were filmed on three continents, i.e. in the United States, Australia, France, Great Britain, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. The project also covers recordings of interviews with outstanding personalities of Polish science, culture, sport or business, whose emigration experiences constitute part of their biographies.

In order to make it easier for the Polish people all over the world to pass their stories on, the Emigration Museum

launched the Emigrant's Archive section on its website. Using a simple and clear form, everyone is able to complete the panel. To make it even more easier, additional questions have been provided, however, they serve only as suggestions or hints for the users to try. Each person makes their own decision as to the nature, form and scope of his or her account. It may refer to individual experience or be a record of the emigration story of a family member. The Emigration Museum in Gdynia also encourages the sending of photographs which enrich the entire material.

Visitors can become acquainted with stories told by people from different times and from the most distant places in the world – the first reports have been already placed on the website. Every person having any emigration experience can share his or her memories, experiences and personal stories so that they are maintained in the Emigrant's Archive. The website address: **www.muzeum-memigracji.pl/archiwumemigranta**.



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