

+++ PRESS RELEASE INDOOR MEETING KARLSRUHE 2021 +++

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Europahalle Karlsruhe

www.meeting-karlsruhe.de

World-class trio in the hurdles sprint at the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe 2021

With Pascal Martinot-Lagarde, Dimitri Bascou and Andrew Pozzi, three medal winners at the start in Karlsruhe / Virtual mixed zone replaces press work on site

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The men's 60-meter hurdles event will be a fast one. Because with the Frenchman **Pascal Martinot-Lagarde**, his compatriot **Dimitri Bascou** and the Brit **Andrew Pozzi**, three world-class athletes have indicated that they will compete in the hurdle sprint at the 36th INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe, which this year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, will take place without spectators at the Karlsruhe Europa Hall.

One athlete who is very familiar with INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe is **Pascal Martinot-Lagarde**. Martinot-Lagarde, who was born in Saint-Maur-des-Fossés in France and whose personal best in the hall was 7.45 seconds, competed in the event as early as 2012 and 2013 - at that time in the Europa Hall - and in 2017 in the exhibition pavilion. A look at Martinot-Lagarde's trophy cabinet is a worthwhile experience. In 2015, he secured gold at the European Indoor Championships in Prague with 7.49 seconds, ahead of his compatriot Dimitri Bascou (7.50 seconds), whom he will now meet again at the INDOOR MEETING on 29 January. But Pascal Martinot-Lagarde has also run head-to-head with Andrew Pozzi from Great Britain, because it was Pozzi who pushed him into second place at the European Indoor Championships in Belgrade in 2017. The 29-year-old celebrated his greatest sporting success to date in 2018, when he won the gold medal at the European Outdoor Championships in Berlin. But 2019 turned out to be no less successful, as he won silver at the European Indoor Championships in Prague in March and the bronze medal at the World Outdoor Championships in Doha at the end of the year.

Andrew Pozzi has competed only once at the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe – but that one time was extremely successful. Because the 28-year-old Brit, whose indoor best performance of 7.43 seconds is still below that of Pascal Martinot-Lagarde, won the day at his first appearance in Karlsruhe. In the last men's 60 meters in Karlsruhe he secured victory in a brilliant 7.44 seconds ahead of the Spaniard Orlando Ortega. Pozzi underpinned his top form only one month later by winning the gold medal at the European Indoor Championships in

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Belgrade. Andrew Pozzi also won gold at the 2018 World Indoor Championships in Birmingham, making that his greatest sporting success to date.

The third member of the group is **Dimitri Bascou**, who won the hurdles sprint in 2015, the first event at the time in the exhibition pavilion. The 33-year-old Frenchman achieved an unbelievable 7.41 seconds, his personal best, in the hall. He first clocked that time at a meeting in Berlin in 2016, and it was the national record at the time. Bascou's greatest successes in the athletics hall are silver at the European Indoor Championships in 2015 and bronze at the 2016 Indoor World Championships. 2016 can also be described as his most successful year. In addition to the European Championship title in Amsterdam, Bascou also won bronze at the Olympic Games in Rio and thus achieved the first French podium position since Guy Druet's Olympic title in 1976.

We all know that in these coronavirus times things are very different from how they usually are. Due to the fact that the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe 2021 has to take place without spectators because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the associated move from a temporary athletics arena in the Karlsruhe Exhibition Center to the Europahalle Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe Marketing und Event GmbH as the host and the LG Region Karlsruhe as the organiser face major organisational challenges. In addition to compliance with infection protection measures, compliance with the fire protection concept must also be ensured. This means that only a limited number of people can be in the hall at the same time. This requires new standards in some areas, including those for the press. For this reason, for the 36th edition the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe will be working together with the British concern VINCO SPORT LTD to enable all press representatives who would otherwise report live on site in the hall to do so from home in a coronavirus-compliant manner. In addition to live interviews and a photo pool, press representatives can also use this platform to put their own personal question to an athlete in an input dialog. The system was used successfully in the Wanda Diamond League season last summer.

As a founding member of the World Athletics Indoor Tour, Karlsruhe with its INDOOR MEETING has been firmly anchored as an athletics location since 2016. In 2021, the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe will kick off the World Athletics Indoor Tour on 29 January. The other events on the tour include the meetings in Boston, USA (6 February), Liévin, France (9 February), New York, USA (13 February), Torun, Poland (17 February), as well as the conclusion of the tour in Madrid, Spain, (24 February). In addition to a US \$ 10,000 victory bonus that the tour winner of each discipline can win, the winner will also receive a wildcard for the 2022 World Indoor Championships in Belgrade.

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Stages of World Athletics Indoor Tour 2021:

29/01/2021: INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe (Karlsruhe, GER)
06/02/2021: New Balance Indoor Grand Prix (Boston, USA)
09/02/2021: Meeting Hauts-de-France Pas-de-Calais (Liévin, FRA)
13/02/2021: NYRR Millrose Games (New York, USA)
17/02/2021: ORLEN Copernicus Cup (Torun, POL)
24/02/2021: Villa de Madrid (Madrid, ESP)

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