



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Soundings Trade Only Group to announce the 2025 EPIC Award Winners at IBEX.

Chattanooga, TN – September 20, 2025 — The Soundings Trade Only Group is pleased to announce that the winners of the 2025 EPIC Awards will be revealed on Wednesday, October 8th, 2025, at 9:45am on the IBEX stage, located on the first floor of the Tampa Convention Center. The ceremony will take place immediately following the Marine Ideas Exchange (MIX) event.

Formerly known as the Most Innovative Marine Company Awards, the EPIC Awards celebrate companies that are propelling the recreational marine industry forward through bold leadership, purposeful innovation, and a commitment to meaningful change.

An acronym for Exceptional, Purposeful, Innovative, Compassionate, the EPIC Awards honor companies driving transformation across a range of categories, including:

- Altruism & Social Awareness
- Development & Technology
- Workplace Culture
- Manufacturing Processes & Supply Chains
- Start-ups
- Sustainability
- Mixed/Other

This year's EPIC Award honorees will include one overall winner, a Top 10 list, and individual category-specific awardees. All winning companies will be profiled in the November issue of *Soundings Trade Only* and featured online at TradeOnlyToday.com.

The 2025 judging panel brought together respected industry leaders, including Paxson St. Clair, former president of Cobalt boats; and Dave Connolly, who led sales representative group Thomas Connolly and Sons as senior partner for more than four decades; Gary Reich, editor in chief of *Soundings Trade Only*; Glenn Sandridge, former president of Firecrown's marine segment; and Michele Goldsmith, vice president and general manager of the Soundings Trade Only group.

"Each year, the EPIC Awards shine a spotlight on companies igniting progress in the marine industry," said Michele Goldsmith. "This year's honorees represent excellence in design and development, workforce, training, manufacturing techniques, technology, innovation and more. We look forward to celebrating their achievements at IBEX."

To learn more about the 2025 EPIC Awards, please visit: www.tradeonlytoday.com/enter.

The Soundings Trade Only Group

The Soundings Trade Only Group is a marine business-to-business multi-media brand, with a mission to provide information to grow your business. It includes a monthly print publication, digital entities including a daily e-newsletter, web, and social media sites, and marine industry events. *Soundings Trade Only* offers the latest business news, and information about products, trends, statistics, management, and marketing insights, designed to reflect, inform, and inspire the marine industry. It is part of Firecrown Media, a global media platform for affluent enthusiasts and includes both consumer and trade marine titles. For more information, about the Soundings Trade Only Group, please visit www.tradeonlytoday.com, for your free subscription please visit www.tradeonlytoday.com/subscribe.

About Firecrown:

Firecrown isn't just the leading media platform for affluent enthusiasts; it's pioneering the fusion of content and commerce. With more than fifty prestigious publications in the marine, aviation, and hobby markets, Firecrown goes beyond traditional media. Its business encompasses e-commerce, finance, and real estate, all tailored to the communities engaged by its media outlets. Serving more than 24 million U.S. households classified as affluent enthusiasts, these consumers have considerable disposable income and are keen to invest in their passions and adventures. Firecrown is headquartered in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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