

# Press Releases WRTC 2018

This is a summary of press releases of the WRTC 2018 published on the website [wrtc2018.de](http://wrtc2018.de).

## Germany nominated to host WRTC 2018

Published: 15 May 2015

On Sunday, October 5, 2014 the World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) Sanctioning Committee selected Germany as the host nation for the WRTC 2018. This nomination followed an initiative of DARC, BCC and RRDXA, initiated during the Ham Radio fair Friedrichshafen at the end of June 2014. A small team, headed by Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, was set up in order to explore the option to hold this event in Germany.

Since 1990, WRTC has been held regularly in different locations. For one week, it brings together some 60 teams from all over the world, who then compete in the IARU HF Team Championship under field day conditions. The last WRTC was held in New England/USA. Only a few weeks ago, it ended with a bronze medal for Germany.

During the next weeks, the team will launch an official organization to finance and conduct WRTC2018 in Germany. The team is recruiting volunteers, in the fields public relations, location management, accommodation and social events.

Three geographical regions within Germany are currently under evaluation and one of them will be selected as the venue for WRTC 2018: the area near Muenster/Westfalen, the area Maerkisch Oderland east of Berlin and the area around Jessen/Wittenberg.

A web site has been set up to provide further details: <http://www.wrtc2018.de>. Additionally, a WRTC2018 mailing list for potential participants was established. If you have any additional questions or wish to join the project team, please send a short e-mail to [contact@wrtc2018.de](mailto:contact@wrtc2018.de).

## WRTC2018 Work group met in Rheine

Published: 15 May 2015

On Saturday, 22nd November 2014 the WRTC2018 working group of RRDXA and BCC met in the town of Rheine near Münster for the second meeting. Chairman Christian Janßen, DL1MGB, summarized the activities of the past months, especially our successful application.

The main subject of the meeting was the final decision on the WRTC qualification process, which defines contest and category weights. As promised, the final rules will be published by the end of November.

Other topics of the meeting were financing, foundation of the formal WRTC 2018 organization, and marketing related topics. Lots of details have been discussed and new ideas were born. For example, we consider contesting events focused on young radio amateurs as part of the WRTC2018 project.

On Sunday, a small group explored the region east of the town of Lingen, which will be one of our candidate regions. The region called "Emsland" offers a completely flat environment, thus providing a leveled playing field. Its topography will support a fair competition.

## WWROF and WRTC2018 announce fundraising partnership

Published: 15 May 2015

DAYTON, OHIO -- The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) and the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee are pleased to announce that the WWROF has started collecting donations for WRTC2018 effective immediately. In the United States, WWROF is recognized by the Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a tax-exempt public charity, thus donations will be tax-deductible for U.S. taxpayers to the extent permitted by the law. John Dorr, K1AR, Chairman of WWROF said, "We are very happy to partner with the WRTC2018 organizers in this way. WWROF's charter is to assist in the improvement of amateur radio operator skills around the world, utilizing education, competition, advancement of technology and scientific research as well as promoting international friendship and goodwill. WRTC is well aligned with those goals."

The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee highly appreciates this cooperation as the WWROF is a well-known and honorable Organization supporting ham radio operating on a sufficient high level on all fields of our hobby like technological development, international networking, but also practical support for young contesters. The WWROF was founded by international recognized and successful contesters like K1AR, K3LR, and K3EST, just to name a few. The WWROF also supports distinguished contest events like the CQWW DX contest by funding awards, log-checking infrastructure, and more.

WRTC 2018 president Chris, DL1MGB, extends his thanks for this support as it shows hamspirit and worldwide friendship. WWROF had also a huge impact on the WRTC 2014 success by providing financial, technological and finally personal support. We are grateful for the support of that we could win the WWROF as partner. We are all working hard to make WRTC 2018 a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Donations from U.S. taxpayers only can be sent via mail to WRTC-2018, WWROF Inc., PO Box 10424, Midland, TX 79702-7424 or via PayPal to [WRTC2018@wwrof.org](mailto:WRTC2018@wwrof.org).

### About WWROF

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation was created in 2009 by a group of radio operators who saw a need for an independent organization devoted to the skill and art of radio operating. WWROF believes that amateur radio contests provide a means of testing operating skill and that worldwide contest sponsors can benefit from the support we can provide. WWROF provides infrastructure support for many major contests as well as a series of Webinars on topics related to radio sport. The Directors and Officers of the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation are all well-known and highly-respected radio operators. In addition, each brings a specific skill set and proven track record in his professional career to the management of the organization. Visit [www.wwrof.org](http://www.wwrof.org) for more information.

## Meet the WRTC 2018 Organizers

Published: 24 June 2015

WRTC 2018 welcomes you to the HAM RADIO 2015 in Friedrichshafen. At our booth, located between Bavarian Contest Club and Rhein Ruhr DX Association in hall A1/170, we will present you not only information about the World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 in Germany. There is much more to explore:

- Listen to your QSOs with the WRTC2014 winner team K1A (N6MJ/KL9A)

- Apply for the WWQR award together with our award manager Hajo DJ9MH
- Watch the 1000x100 donator wall
- Meet & Greet top contesters from Germany, Europe and the World

The service of WWQR award application will be offered on Friday (10:00 and 17:00 MESZ), Saturday (10:00 and 17:00 MESZ) and on Sunday (10:00 MESZ) and will be done through the DCL. What is DCL? DCL is <http://dcl.darc.de/~dcl/public/index.php>.

On Friday at 11:00 MESZ we will officially announce the host region where the WRTC 2018 will take place! Be sure to show up at the "Aktionsbühne" in the Foyer West. Afterwards we will have a presentation at the "Aktionsbühne" about "WRTC 2018 - What are volunteers for?" Don't miss this one if you want to know how you can support the WRTC 2018.

For anyone interested in the past WRTC 2014 in Boston, Doug Grant K1DG (president of their organizing committee) will give you some insight in what happened in New England. The president of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee, Christian Janssen DL1MGB, will give some information about the upcoming event in 2018. Please visit the Contest Forum in hall A2 room 1 on Saturday June 27th at 12:00 MESZ.

We are looking forward to meet you! Have a safe trip to Friedrichshafen!

## WRTC2018 in Jessen/Wittenberg

Published: 02 July 2015

WRTC2018 is happy to announce to you that the World Radiosport Team Championship will take place 2018 in Jessen/Wittenberg near Berlin. We may congratulate all inhabitants for this decision. Everybody is working hard to make another once in a lifetime experience happen.

On Friday we were happy to announce that the local Hams in Jessen/Wittenberg near Berlin succeeded in convincing the organizers that this would be the right place for WRTC2018. We extend our thanks to all involved Ham and congratulate them for this decision.

Ham Radio operators and contesters around the world are now invited to prepare themselves for a visit to Jessen/ Wittenberg. As a historical landscape Wittenberg is well-known from the protestant reformation around Martin Luther who publishes his 95 theses on October 31th 1517. This date is commemorated until today as Reformation Day in some German regions. In 2017 the reformation will have its 500th anniversary.

## WWROF donates 15.000 USD

Published: 14 July 2015

The WRTC2018 Organizing Committee is happy to announce that the WWROF awarded 15.000 USD. This does not only prove that Hamspirit and worldwide friendship is alive but also the outstanding recognition of an event like the WRTC2018. In a letter to vice-president Michael, DL6MHW, John, K1AR: „The mission of WWROF is to improve the skills of amateur radio operators around the world, utilizing education, competition, advancement of technology while promoting international friendship and goodwill.

The goals of WRTC2018 are well-aligned with this mission, goals that have been capably demonstrated over the past seven WRTC events. The WWROF has no doubt that your team will continue this fine tradition and for that reason is proud to provide our financial support. “

WRTC2018 president Chris, DL1MGB, expresses his sincere thanks to the WWROF: „The donation made by the WWROF during the 2015 HamVention in Dayton shows that there is already a lot of confidence in us and that we are on the right way towards 2018“.

All members of the WRTC2018 Organizing Committee extend their gratefulness to the WWROF for this great support. We all work hard to make the WRTC2018 another once-in-a-lifetime experience.

### About WWROF

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation was created in 2009 by a group of radio operators who saw the need for an independent organization devoted to improving the skill and art of radio operating.

WWROF believes that amateur radio contests provide a means of enhancing operating skills and that worldwide contest sponsors can benefit from the support they can provide. WWROF provides infrastructure support for many major contests as well as a series of Webinars on topics related to radiosport.

The Directors and Officers of the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation are all well-known and highly-regarded radio operators. In addition, each of them provides a specific set of skills and proven success in his professional career for the management of the organization.

Visit [www.wwrof.org](http://www.wwrof.org) for more information.

## WRTC 2018 organizers met at Jessen

Published: 18 August 2015

On August 15th the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee met for a workshop at Jessen in Saxony-Anhalt. At the beginning of the meeting Michael Jahn, the Mayor of Jessen, was acquainted with the project. Michael Jahn expressed his pleasure about the choice of Jessen as the host of the “Olympic Games of Amateur Radio” and passed his thanks to the radio amateurs of the region for their outstanding work.

Organizing the project was the main focus of the agenda. Treasurer, Wolfhard Goldschmidt, DL9ZWG, reported a good start particularly due to a great number of donations from German radio amateurs. Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, the chairman of the Organizing Committee, presented the tool selected for the project management and explained the project schedule. To keep frictional losses at a minimum public relations work was reorganized with the main responsibility currently in the hands of Michael Hoeding, DL6MHW. In future Ben Buettner, DL6RAI, will look after IT matters.

A further important topic for discussion concerned the 60 sites that will be required for the actual WRTC contest in 2018. Supported by radio amateurs from Saxony and Brandenburg, Andreas Winter, DK4WA, has already mapped more than 80 sites that promise excellent conditions. In this context environmental care was also addressed as this issue is considered most important. In the Organizing Committee Andreas Winter will take regional responsibility for all local activities in the Jessen/Wittenberg area.

With regard to the detailed shaping of the rules of the competition Uwe Koennecker, DL8OBF, has published an analysis and the results of the discussion that he had initiated in the WRTC-2018 Mailing List. In this discussion experienced WRTC-competitors of the past have expertly discussed the pros and cons of MS- and M/2 operation. In the discussions at Jessen further aspects especially from the view of the organizers were supplemented. After this opinion-forming process Uwe will prepare a draft of the rules for the actual WRTC-contest in the course of the next weeks.

Finally, it was suggested to hold the next general meeting of the WRTC 2018 e.V. after the RRDXA spring meeting that is traditionally scheduled on the 2nd weekend in March at Waltrop.

## New Bronze Sponsor: Funktechnik Frank Dathe (Germany)

Published: 28 August 2015

WRTC 2018 e.V. is happy to announce that Funktechnik Frank Dathe will support the world radio team championship in Germany.

Frank (DL7LVM) and Michael (DL6MHW) signed the sponsorship agreement, discussed the project status and ideas for future cooperation. Frank Dathe expressed his pleasure that such an outstanding event like WRTC is coming to Germany in 2018. He will support WRTC not only with money but also with help and advice. With the sponsoring plaque shown during the HAM RADIO at Friedrichshafen and other presentations you can easily identify Funktechnik Dathe as a dedicated supporter of radio sports.

## WWROF webinar "WRTC Update"

Published: 30 September 2015

Right before the last three qualification events in 2015 the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee presents the WWROF webinar "WRTC Update".

*Join the Webinar*

4-Oct 19 UTC



**DL1MGB**  
Project Lead



**DL8OBF**  
Advisory Council  
Competition



**DL8MBS**  
WAG Contest  
Director

There will be three main contributions:

- Chris (DL1MGB), president of the organization committee, will give a general overview on WRTC Germany and the current project status. Of course, he will ask you for donations.
- Uwe (DL8OBF), director of competition, will announce the decision in MS vs. M2.
- Christian (DL8MBS), contest director of WAG, will give an introduction into the specialties of this traditional contest, which is a new qualification event for WRTC.

The webinar is a well-established platform, sponsored by the WWROF and managed by Ken, K4ZW. You can take part online using the link <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3567078872821998082>. In the end of the webinar you will have the chance to ask questions. Moreover, webinars are recorded and can be viewed later.

## New Bronze Sponsor: MASTRANT®

Published: 13 October 2015

WRTC 2018 e.V. is happy to announce that MASTRANT® will support the World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 in Germany with synthetic guy ropes.

Martin Huml (OL5Y/OK1FUA) offered the support of MASTRANT® at an early stage of the project. Guy ropes are an essential part of every portable antenna setup because it defines the final mechanical stability of the mast. The lines on the basis of Polyester and Dyneema were already successfully tested on DXpeditions and on permanent installations. MASTRANT® was already a major supporter of the WRTC 2014.

The WRTC 2018 e.V. would like to express their thanks for this extraordinary support of Amateur Radiosport.

With the sponsoring plaque shown during major ham fairs you can easily identify MASTRANT® as a dedicated supporter of radio sports.

## WRTC 2018 – just another 1000 days to go

Published: 15 October 2015

October 16th, 2015 is a special date in the preparations for the WRTC (World Radiosport Team Championship). Exactly 1000 days are left before the opening of the WRTC on July 11th, 2018. It was almost one year ago that Germany was awarded to host the WRTC by the WRTC Sanctioning Committee (WRTC SC). That is why we want to look back at first results and to look forward towards the future.

### In the past year first important results have been achieved

- The world-wide qualification process has been running since February 2015. Current results have been published under <http://www.wrtc2018.de> in the Web and are steadily being upgraded. So far about 15 000 radio amateurs have participated in the 13 previous qualification contests, more than 1300 of them from Germany.
- “WRTC 2018 e.V.” was founded and has been recognized as a charitable non-profit association. Donations of about EUR 55.000 have already been acquired safeguarding about 14% of the total costs.

- The area around Jessen/Wittenberg has been chosen to host the event. It offers an ideal playing-field for the contest and an excellent infra-structure with a great number of radio amateurs in the region.
- World-wide interest in the WRTC is mirrored in discussions, publications and the social media.

#### Targets for the year ahead:

- The specification and testing of the technical equipment will be an important task for that a WRTC-field-test will be held on the second weekend in July.
- Increasing the fund-raising efforts shall get further sponsors on board. "WRTC 2018 e.V." is talking to international manufacturers and clubs as well as to regional sponsors with the goal that more than half the required funds can be raised by radio amateurs themselves.
- "WRTC 2018" will show continuous presence at important amateur radio fairs and in the press. We can be addressed at any time and we are prepared to answer all questions about this extraordinary event in radiosport.
- The last qualification contests will be in November 2016. We are planning to publish provisional results at the end of that year, but – due to possibly narrow scores - corrections are to be expected after the official publishing of the final results of all qualification contests.

#### Summary

Project "WRTC 2018" has been launched successfully and important sub-goals are well on track. The next 1000 day will be full of manifold tasks that will be jointly tackled by radio amateurs from the Jessen/Wittenberg area, from Germany, and from all over the world.

## New Silver Sponsor: BOX73 - Knut Theurich, DG0ZB

Published: 31 October 2015

We are happy to announce that BOX73 will support the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany. Michael, DL6MHW, presented the first Silver Sponsor plaque to Knut Theurich, DG0ZB, the CEO of BOX73 during Interadio 2015 in Hannover.

BOX73 is well known for its monthly Journal FUNKAMATEUR - the leading independent ham radio journal in Germany. Here you can read excellent articles about DXpeditioning as well as technical articles covering topics such as transceiver testing or antenna design. But there are articles about advanced electronics and home brewing, too. Knut is also well-known as a generous supporter of many DXpeditions and the German DX Foundation. Many of us own QSL cards from BOX73 as it often sponsors large quantities of QSL-cards.

The WRTC 2018 e.V. would like to express their thanks for this extraordinary support of amateur radio sports.

With the Silver Sponsor plaque presented during the fairs like Hamradio Friedrichshafen you can easily recognize BOX73 as a dedicated supporter of radio sports.

## Just Apply: WWQR Award 2015

Published: 20 November 2015

The WWQR award series is an opportunity for every active ham to join the WRTC community. You have to work stations from WRTC qualification regions. The award is issued on a yearly basis. We have just published an article with a step by step approach for an easy electronic application using the DARC Community Logbook (DCL). After log-in (easy with an LOTW account) you might find already enough points for the basic classes of WWQR because DCL contains QSO data from WPX and other contests. Moreover, you can import QSOs from LOTW, Clublog or your own ADIF for higher class awards. Just import your CQWW SSB Log or use that from CQWW CW to obtain a 5-Band- or 6-Band-Award.

## YCCC announced Matching Gift Program for WRTC2018

Published: 09 December 2015

WRTC 2018 is happy to learn that the honorable Yankee Clipper Contest Club announced a matching gift program to support WRTC in Germany 2018. The matching gift will automatically be applied when individuals donate through WWROF (Paypal WRTC2018@wwrof.org) for WRTC 2018. YCCC has allocated 1000 USD. The program runs until 28th February 2016. WRTC 2018 likes to express sincerely thanks to YCCC for the great idea and support.

## YASME Foundation donates 3000 USD to WRTC2018

Published: 10 December 2015

Today WRTC2018 received a big donation by the YASME foundation. YASME is a not-for-profit corporation supporting amateur radio projects. On one hand, YASME supported previous WRTCs with significant donations. On the other hand, we have to mention that YASME members played key roles in many previous WRTCs as directors, referees or competitors. One of the most remarkable WRTC events was the ham widows ball in Boston 2014 organized and sponsored by YASME. Many thanks to this highly motivating support!

## Contest Club Ontario donates 1000 Euro for WRTC 2018

Published: 24 December 2015

We received a big donation by the Contest Club Ontario (CCO) today. CCO is well known for active contesters who always support us (in central Europe) with loud signals, the VE and Zone 4 multiplier - also on the low bands. The CCO is led by John, VE3EJ. He is the president of CCO and also famous for the gold medal of WRTC 2006 in Brazil. John wrote to WRTC 2018: "Please accept this donation from the members of Contest Club Ontario towards the costs of holding WRTC 2018. We wish you good fortune in your effort to host WRTC 2018." Of course, we accept the donation and we will do our very best. Many thanks to this highly motivating support!



## WRTC-meeting at Wittenberg

Published: 12 January 2016

On January 6th, 2016 the WARC-Organizing-Committee met at Wittenberg with a comprehensive agenda and especially the following items

- evaluated the offers from antenna manufacturers, which we received as a response on our request for quotation,
- planning of a WRTC-test-weekend on July 9th/10th,
- preparing WRTC-presentations at ham fairs in Dayton and Friedrichshafen
- discussion of the WRTC-rules
- discussion of the IT-concept

There is a lot left to be done especially with regard to funding. Donations from US-donators via WWROF can now be quickly published on the WRTC2018 web page. International donations can be made via PayPal and Wire Transfer to the WRTC bank account. Fees are a lot lower with Wire Transfer. The idea that DARC-districts should sponsor complete site-packages has not found sufficient support and alternative solutions must be discussed.

The currently running qualification receives a lot of praise. Results updated without delay. The great number of hits on the web page with the standings show the high amount of interest. The publication of half-time results is being considered.

Additionally to ham fairs WRTC2018 shall be represented at club meetings and other amateur radio events. Possible approaches for that were discussed. Further information material is being prepared.

The exploration of potential contest sites promises excellent playing fields, while the necessary legal framework and possible environmental restrictions are still waiting to be negotiated. Furthermore, Wittenberg is a most interesting tourist attraction that offers a great number of historical sites to be found within a small area.

All in all the planning is on target, but a host of details, problems and queries take a lot of time for the Organizing Committee. We look optimistically to the year 2018.

## OM-Power - New Bronze Sponsor

Published: 15 January 2016

WRTC 2018 e.V. is happy to announce that OM-Power will support the world radiosport team championship in Germany as a "Bronze Sponsor". The two owners of OM-Power, Tibi, OM3RM, and Jozef, OM3GI, were participants of former WRTCs, e.g. in Moscow, Boston and Slovenia. Tibi implemented the sponsorship very fast and signed the sponsoring agreement.

The WRTC 2018 e.V. would like to express their thanks for this extraordinary support of amateur radiosport.

## GDXF donation for WRTC 2018

Published: 16 January 2016

We are happy to receive a 1000 Euro donation by the German DX Foundation (GDXF) today. The GDXF is well known to the DX community for its continuous support of DXpeditions. GDXF president Franz Langer, DJ9ZB, underlined the strong connection between contesting and DXing. The donation has been handed over by Henning Folger, DL6DH to the WRTC president during the annual Bavarian Contest Club meeting. Henning, as a representative of the GDXF board of directors, said: "The GDXF is happy to see such a major event in Germany." We want to express our sincere thanks for the donation as a symbol of ham-spirit.



## WRTC 2018 selects Antenna Supplier Spiderbeam

Published: 18 January 2016

WRTC 2018 e.V., host of the 2018 World Radiosport Team Championship competition, is pleased to announce that the antennas to be used for the competition will be supplied by Spiderbeam. Spiderbeam was selected after a thorough technical evaluation and competitive bidding process among multiple antenna suppliers.



The WRTC organization committee identified a list of preferred attributes for the WRTC competition antenna. These included being light weight, having good performance, sufficient experience within the helper team, and available at a competitive price. Several antennas met the requirements. The successful bidder, Spiderbeam, provided an antenna with a winning combination that not only addressed the electrical and mechanical performance sought but also provided the option of a rotatable dipole for the 40-m-band.

“Antennas are a critical component to the success of WRTC.” said Andreas Paulick, DL5CW, leader of the WRTC-2018 station committee. “With about 65 stations to build in less than two days, we wanted antennas that could be easy to store and transport and deliver the performance expected by the competitors. Spiderbeam was the best fit for our requirements.”

“Spiderbeam was honored to be asked to contribute to this important and exciting WRTC 2018 event,” said Andreas, DL5CW. “WRTC has personal meaning and significance to several members of the Spiderbeam team, especially to the CEO Con Paul, DF4SA, which have been competitors in many Contest DXpeditions.” The Spiderbeam setup includes also mast and rotor support. It will be tested during the test days in summer 2016.

## DX Engineering - New Bronze Sponsor

Published: 06 February 2016

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that DX Engineering will support the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany as a Bronze Sponsor.

"DX Engineering is proud to help promote and support this fine Amateur Radio Contesting event in Germany" said Tim, K3LR, COO of DX Engineering. WRTC 2018 would like to express our thanks for this extraordinary support of amateur radiosport.

## Vibroplex - New Bronze Sponsor

Published: 06 February 2016

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that Vibroplex will support the world radiosport team championship in Germany as a "Bronze Sponsor".

Scott, W4PA, CEO of Vibroplex already assured the support during Hamvention 2015. As a well-known contester and former participant of WRTC he is a notably member of the WRTC community. In Boston Scott organized the CW competition as side event of WRTC 2014. The final signature of the sponsoring agreement completed the official relationship between Vibroplex and WRTC 2018 e.V.

We would like to express our thanks for this extraordinary support of amateur radiosport.

## Frankford Radio Club donates 1000 Euro for WRTC 2018

Published: 17 February 2016

More good news: WRTC 2018 received a big donation by the Frankford Radio Club (FRC). FRC is also well known for active contesters in Europe, winning many times the club competition of the Worked All Europe Contest. Dave, N3RD, of FRC pointed out "We wish you continued success with your planning and fund-raising activities for WRTC2018." Dave was referee for WRTC 2014 in Boston and is the treasurer of FRC.

Many thanks for this highly motivating support!

## Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) donates 1000 USD

Published: 07 March 2016

WRTC2018 is very happy to announce that a big donation from Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) was received this week. With a special matching gift program, which YCCC ran from December 9th, 2015 through February 28th 2016, individual donors from the US got inspired to contribute 1000 USD to WRTC2018. As a gift YCCC now doubled this amount with an extra 1000 USD.

Thank you very much YCCC and all individual donors for your outstanding support!

The YCCC is a special purpose amateur radio club devoted to the pursuit of operating and technical excellence. It was founded in 1977 and now boasts over 400 members, who excel in all areas of amateur radio contesting, DXing, technical design, and public service.

## WRTC 2018 announces Tent Sponsorship Program

Published: 8 March 2016

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is regarded as "the Olympics of Ham Radio". Staged in Germany it is organized by a private group of individual radio amateurs. The event is funded entirely through donations.

Up to 63 competing teams will operate from tents in "Field Day" style. We will assemble a total of 65 stations to allow for contingencies (line noise, site access issues, etc.).

### Club/Group Tent Sponsorships

WRTC 2018 makes Tent Sponsorships available to clubs and other groups. A 1000 Euro Tent Sponsorship donation will be acknowledged in our printed/web/video materials and will place the club's logo prominently at the station location.

The entities that sponsoring the tents of one of the three highest scoring teams will receive a special plaque to commemorate their participation. Clubs may sponsor multiple stations.

### Memorial Tent Sponsorships

Non-club groups or individuals may dedicate a Tent Sponsorship in memory of a contester who has become a Silent Key.

## Tent List

Please refer to <http://standings.wrtc2018.de> for a complete list of teams. We will try to accommodate specific sponsorships on a first-come, first-served basis. For example, a club in New England may want to sponsor the NA#1 team's station. Please let us know your first and second choice.

Tent Sponsoring was established by WRTC 2014 and gained significant attention. Clubs not only from USA but also from all over the world showed their significant commitment to the WRTC idea with a Tent Sponsorship donation. The list of proud WRTC 2014 Tent sponsors can be viewed here: <http://www.wrtc2014.org/sponsors/tent-sponsors/>.

## WiMo - New Gold Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 27 April 2016

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that WiMo Antennen & Elektronik GmbH will support the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany as a Gold Sponsor.

Dipl.-Ing. Volkmar Junge, DF2SS, CEO of WiMo offered his support immediately after the decision became known that in 2018 the WRTC will be staged in Germany for the first time ever. As Volkmar put it: "We were fascinated by the idea to team up with the WRTC 2018 organizing committee in order to bring about an event in Germany which is likely to be remembered by the contesting community from all over the world. We have the resources to make it happen and we are delighted to be part of the team."

WiMo, founded in 1982, is the leading supplier of ham radio equipment in Europe, offering the full range of ham radio gear as well as radio equipment for commercial use. WiMo will support the WRTC as a supplier for cables and low band antennas.

Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, president of the WRTC-2018 organizing committee, emphasized the importance of teaming up with strong partners: "We highly welcome the support of WiMo as one of the major players in the worldwide market for ham radio equipment. Without the support of companies like WiMo it simply wouldn't be possible to stage an event like the WRTC in an adequate setting."

WRTC 2018 e.V. organizes the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany 2018. Up to now WRTC 2018 e.V. collected donations and sponsoring contributions mainly from Germany and USA, covering about 30 percent of the budget.

## VFDB-branch Bavaria and DARC-district Mecklenburg support WRTC 2018

Published: 02 May 2016

During the last few days "WRTC2018 e.V." has received two further most welcome donations. When the Bavarian VFDB-group presented the WRTC a sum of EUR 1111 Chairman Ralph, DK5RSA, emphasized that the "Field Day idea" of the WRTC eminently promotes the development of team spirit. On top of their donation in 2015 DARC-district Mecklenburg-Vorpommern contributed a further amount of EUR 500. In his accompanying letter, Franz, DL9GFB, the Chairman of the DARC-

district, underlined the great share of the WRTC in international understanding that is fostered by fair radio sport. We are most grateful for this generous support.

## SKY SAT - 4O3A.com is New Bronze Sponsor

Published: 02 May 2016

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that SKY SAT - 4O3A.com has become a supporter of the world radiosport team championship in Germany as a "Bronze Sponsor".

Ranko Boca, CEO of SKY SAT - 4O3A.com, supports the WRTC 2018 with special equipment to prepare the event and to test the setup during the test session in July 2016. As a well-known contester and former participant of WRTC Ranko is a prominent member of the WRTC community. During WRTC 2006 Brazil Ranko introduced new approaches in station automation influencing not only WRTC but also contesting technology in general.

Ranko said: "WRTC is an event that deserves all our attention. The Triplexer system was born in Brazil, and it has become a new standard, improving contesting techniques and opening new possibilities for contesting in general. I hope our German friends are ready to respect the fact that radio contesting is a technical sport and will open some room for technological progress in their rules."

Chris, DL1MGB welcomes the support: "The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee is very confident that, with the feedback of the contest community, they will create a set of rules reflecting new technologies of amateur radio."

We would like to express our cordial thanks for this extraordinary support of amateur radiosport.

## WRTC 2018 Fundraising Hits Important Milestone

Published: 05 May 2016

JESSEN/WITTENBERG – The WRTC 2018 organization, which will be hosting the eighth international World Radio Team Championship amateur radio operating competition in two years, has reached a new stage in its fundraising efforts with the successful launching of its tent sponsorship campaign. Announced in early March, the WRTC volunteers have successfully gathered support from the amateur radio community to support the naming of 20 percent of the 63 tents that will be used by competitors during the event.

Groups or individuals who sponsor one of the 63 tents that house the competitor teams during WRTC 2018 are recognized before and during the event in print, web and all other communications. Support to date has included some of the most prominent clubs and organizations in contesting. These include:

- Arizona Outlaws Contest Club
- In Memoriam Carl D. Cook - AI6V
- Bavarian Contest Club (2 tents)
- Contest Club Finland & Finnish Amateur Radio League
- Dave and Barb Leeson (W6NL/K6BL)
- DARC Distrikt Berlin
- In Memoriam Jörg Puchstein - DL8WPX

- Frankford Radio Club
- In Memoriam Rich Strand - KL7RA
- Lagunaria DX Group
- Northern California Contest Club
- Pizza Lovers 259 (PL259)
- Society of Midwest Contesters (2 Zelte)
- Team K3LR

The naming of WRTC tents as a tribute to well-known contesters who have passed away in recent years is a unique and powerful way of cherishing their memory as well as supporting competition in the sport they loved.

Plenty of opportunities are still available for those who are interested in supporting WRTC 2018 in Germany to show their support in this unique and highly visible way. Please contact Michael Hoeding at [contact@wrtc2018.de](mailto:contact@wrtc2018.de) or visit the web page at <http://www.wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/sponsors/tentsponsoring-en> for more information.

## Formation of the WRTC 2018 Ambassador Program

Published: 09 May 2016

The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee announces the formation of the Ambassador Program which addresses the critical fundraising activity deemed necessary to successfully deliver a world class event. The organizing committee has selected the following well known amateurs to support the WRTC 2018 on a regional basis.

<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Area</b>
OH2BH	Martti	AS	Corp. Relations FAR EAST
9A6XX	Hrle	EU	Croatia
DH1TW/ED1R	Tobi	EU	Iberian Peninsula
F6BEE	Jacques	EU	France
G4BUO	Dave	EU	UK
HB9DDO	Stephan	EU	Switzerland
OH1RX	Jouko	EU	Finland
OM3BH	Rasto	EU	Slovakia and Czech Republic
SP4Z	Wes	EU	Poland
K1RX	Mark	NA	Call area #1
K3LR	Tim	NA	Call area #3 N
K3ZJ	Dave	NA	Call area #3 S
K1TO	Dan	NA	Call area #4
W1RH	Bob	NA	Call area #6
N9RV	Pat	NA	Call area #7
NV9L	Valerie	NA	Call area #9
K0MD	Scott	NA	Call area #0
N1TX	Larry	NA	KL7, VE6/7, KH6, VY1
PY8AZT	Luc	SA	Brazil

Their responsibilities include:

- Public Relations
  - promoting the WRTC in the region and serving as a point of contact for contesters in the region
  - providing feedback to the WRTC 2018 organization in order to improve marketing
  - attending regional events and local club meetings to provide updates to the community at large
- Fund Raising
  - Identifying potential sponsors
  - Making initial contact with supporters of WRTC
  - Assisting in negotiating sponsoring agreements

The organizing committee encourages the contesting community to reach out to their Ambassador to further engage in the process and to coordinate donations.

Rudy, DJ3WE, is in charge of coordinating the Ambassador Program.

As Chris, president of the WRTC-2018 Organizing Committee, put it the other day: “Rudy, this is an impressive lineup of supporters to the WRTC 2018 and we are excited to have their commitment to our overall success – it truly speaks to the importance of a Team effort”

WRTC 2018 e.V. has been founded in 2014 for the sole purpose of staging the World Radio Team Championship, which will be held in July of 2018 for the first time in Germany. Chris Janssen, DL1MGB, is the president of the Organizing Committee. Michael Hoeding, DL6MHW, is the VP of the OC and heads the Fund-Raising Team. Donations are tax deductible for Germans and – if channeled through WWOF – for US taxpayers. The cost estimate for the event amounts to US \$ 450,000.

## SaxPrint receives sponsor plaque

Published: 16 May 2016

In recognition of supporting WRTC 2018 the WRTC-bronze-plaque for sponsoring was handed over to Frank, DO1CTL on May 25th, 2016. SaxPrint supports WRTC2018 by providing the QSL-cards for the special event stations DL0WRTC and DK0WRTC.





When handing over the plaque representing WARC 2018 e.V. René, DL2JRM, pointed out that the early and spontaneous support by SaxPrint was a great motivation for the team. René's words "These QSL-cards are most effective PR for the Olympic Games of Radiosport and have caused great attention world-wide" were replied by Frank saying, that the support of WRTC2018 in Germany was a matter of course for his company and that he was happy about such an important event in Germany.

SaxPrint is one of the leading companies for QSL-cards with ready-printed QSO-data. This service is most handy and accompanied by personal support. Therefore, all contacts with DLOWRTC and DKOWRTC could be confirmed with a minimum of manual work.

In recognition of this extraordinary support of radiosport WRTC2018 would like to express their gratitude.



## Sponsored Teams - Invitation for Applications

Published: 18 May 2016

The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee is looking for applications for the first two sponsored teams beginning on June 1st, 2016.

Sponsored teams are a long-standing tradition in WRTC and a substantial part for fundraising. It gives the chance to take part in the WRTC to dedicated contesters who cannot qualify because of serious commitments. As shown in WRTC 2014 sponsored teams do compete with qualified teams on the same level and have reached top placements.

The selection criteria for WRTC 2018, defined in November 2015, list "up to 5 sponsored teams" in section 4. For the first two slots we welcome applications for sponsored teams according to the rules below:

- a short informal description of the sponsored team, e.g. the objectives and the planned OPs,
- an application sent to [contact@wrtc2018.de](mailto:contact@wrtc2018.de) after June 1st, 2016,
- a contribution of at least EUR 15,000 as guarantee

After an announcement we will close the application process if there are too many applications. Applications for the remaining three sponsored teams will be accepted after the regular qualification process in 2017.

## Messi & Paoloni to become GOLD Sponsor of the WRTC 2018

Published: 20 May 2016

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that Messi & Paoloni (M&P) of Italy has teamed up with WRTC 2018 e.V. for the World Radio Team Championship in 2018 in Germany. M&P will donate altogether 10 km of its coaxial cable of the type M&P-ULTRAFLEX 7.



M&P is well known to the insiders as a top-quality manufacturer especially of 50 Ohm coaxial cables. Its factory produces in Ancona at the Adriatic Sea, about 300 km north east of Rome and 350 km south of Venice. The company celebrated its 70th anniversary in March of 2016.

As Stefano Messi, President and General Manager of M&P put it: "Germany is an attractive market for us, because the Germans are well known for their quality mindedness, which just forms a perfect background for our products. We are proud having been chosen to supply the coaxial cables for this unique event."

Specialists of WRTC 2018 e.V. have extensively tested the cables well beyond the frequencies to be used for the competition. The RF-parameters were at least as good as those of the widely used RG-213 variety, while the mechanical properties – especially bending radius and weight – by far outperformed the reference.

When announcing the decision on the cable supplier, Chris Janssen, DL1MGB, president of WRTC 2018 e.V., pointed out: "I am really pleased to announce our first European GOLD Sponsor from outside of Germany. Messi & Paoloni offered us a cable which ideally matched our needs: Sturdy, light weight and good RF-performance."



summer 2018 in the region of Wittenberg/Jessen. Stahlknecht has held this position since 2011 and is member of the CDU, one of the ruling parties of the State of Saxony-Anhalt. A special connection to radio exists as the Minister of Interior and Sports is also in charge of government communications.

Holger Stahlknecht, Minister für Inneres und Sport in Sachsen-Anhalt, übernimmt die Schirmherrschaft für die World Radiosport Teamchampionship, die im Sommer 2018 in der Region Wittenberg/Jessen stattfindet. Stahlknecht ist seit 2011 im Amt und gehört der CDU an, die die Landesregierung führt. Eine besondere Beziehung zum Medium Funk ergibt sich daraus, dass der Innenminister auch für die Behördenkommunikation und den BOS-Funk zuständig ist.

### Welcoming Address of the Secretary



Dear sportswomen and sportsmen!

In my office as Minister of the Interior and Sports in Saxony-Anhalt I have the pleasure to welcome you to the World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) here in Saxony-Anhalt. I am particularly happy that this prominent event will celebrate its debut in our Elbe-Elster area, the triangle of the North.

The wireless media are of great importance. On March 24th, 2004 the German Federal and State Governments have concluded an agreement to commonly coordinate the development and operation of a uniform digital communication system for all public authorities and organizations with security duty in the Federal Republic of Germany (BOS) triggering off the greatest technical modernization project in Germany. The introduction of a uniform nationwide and comprehensive wireless net for rescue and security services is fundamental for cross-border communication and more important than ever in the view of globalization. The Digital Radio BOS is characterized by a great number of key performance features. It provides communication across these authorities creating innovative forms of collaboration with respect to deployment organization and supports the emergency services tackling their tasks. At the moment radio coverage in the Federal Republic of Germany amounts to 99 per cent, more than 630 000 members are registered in the net. Such technical progress in the field of digital radio communication grants outstanding conditions to fulfil our police tasks.

Dear sportswomen and sportsmen, our State offers you an ideal framework to achieve excellent results in this championship and, at the same time, a view of our unique landscape in the Elbe-Elster area.

Top radio operators from all parts of the world will be our guests in Saxony-Anhalt, among them three teams from Germany. Of course, I wish them success in an exciting and fair competition. All the best to the organizing team for a smooth and successful performance. I am convinced that the WRTC will be a great contribution to spread our hospitality beyond all borders.

Yours cordially, Holger Stahlknecht

## YAESU – Prime Sponsor WRTC 2018

Published: 25 June 2016

(Friedrichshafen, 25th June 2016) The organizers of the WRTC 2018 have the pleasure to announce that YAESU Musen will support WRTC 2018 as Prime Sponsor. During the Ham Radio 2016 YAESU Director Masao Mori and WRTC 2018 President Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, signed a “Memorandum of Understanding”. YAESU Musen, well renowned as a leading manufacturer of amateur radio equipment, is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The name YAESU stands for innovation and tradition. YAESU has been supporting a great variety of projects in the field of DXing and contesting for many decades. Already at the WRTC 2002 in Finland YAESU stood in the front row in developing the idea of the World Radio Team Championship.



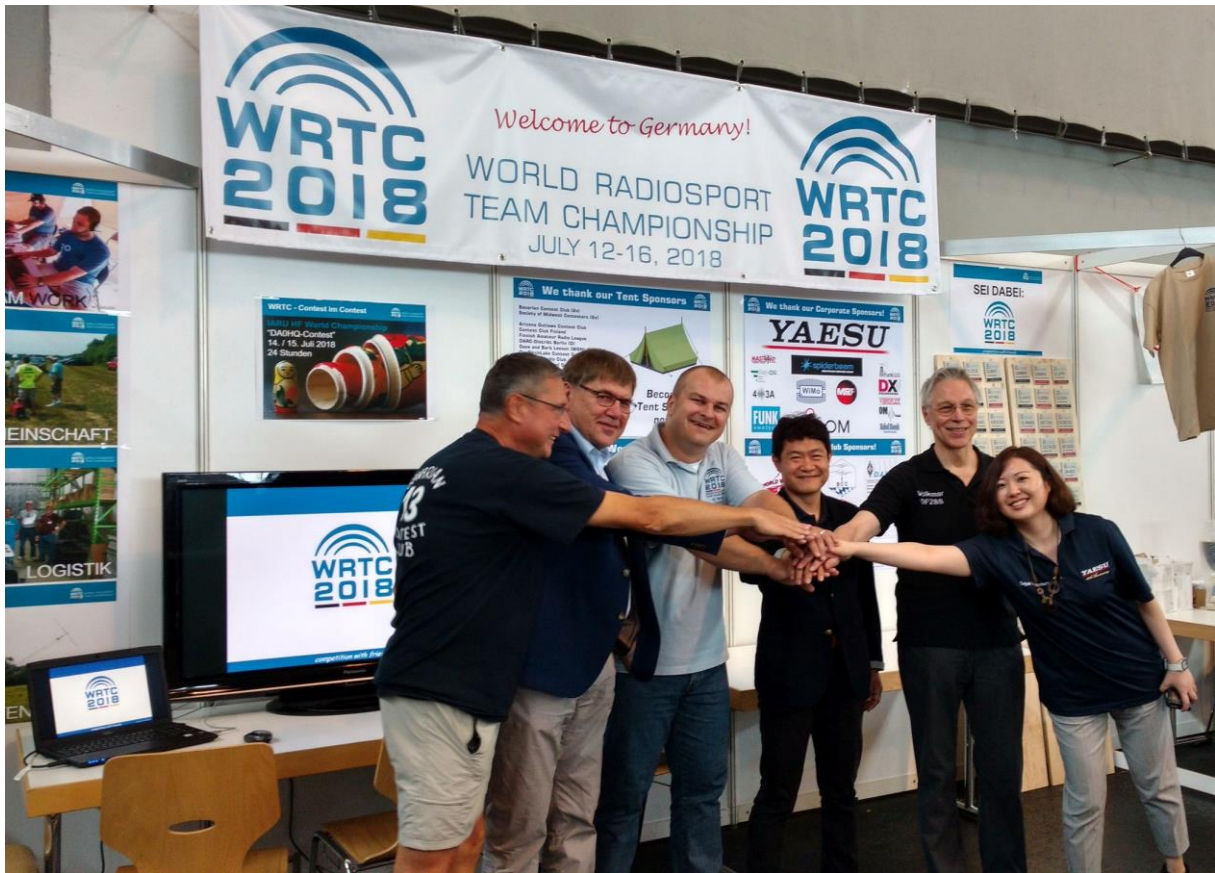
YAESU has announced immediate financial support and to provide technical equipment. They will donate all rotators for the WRTC antennas. Their most reliable technical standard will guarantee fairness in this radiosport competition, the core idea of the WRTC for more than 25 years.

Masao Mori stated, “YAESU is happy to get into such close contact with the WRTC 2018 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary. We are looking forward to providing our long-standing experience in the cooperation with the great events of amateur radio.”

Christian Janssen replied, „I am delighted to be able to welcome YAESU Musen, one of the leading manufacturers of communication equipment as Prime Sponsor. The support by YAESU means a great step forward towards our sponsoring target.”

The agreement was also signed by Martti Laine (OH2BH) and Volkmar Junge (DF2SS). In his office as WRTC 2018 Ambassador, Martti Laine has established the link to YAESU and being one of the organizers of the WRTC 2002 in Finland he has contributed unpayable support in the negotiations.

Volkmar Junge, President and CEO of the WiMo company, will assist in the execution of the agreement as the European partner.



Furthermore, the signing was witnessed by Saya Nakamura, Liaison Officer of YAESU, as well as by Michael Hoeding (DL6MHW) and Rudolf Schwenger (DJ3WE) of the WRTC 2018 Fundraising Committee.

The WRTC 2018 expresses its gratitude towards YAESU Musen for its most generous support as a token of worldwide cooperation in amateur radio and Martti and Volkmar for their consulting and support.

## WRTC Test Session 2016

Published: 07 July 2016

(Wittenberg, 7th July 2016) During the second weekend of July, exactly two years before the ham radio Olympics in Germany, the WRTC team meets for a first test session in the Jessen/Wittenberg area. We will set up the selected antennas at five sites and test this configuration in a real contest.

The test session addresses several goals. The first is to evaluate the antenna system and the setup procedure with different teams to detect optimization potentials. Furthermore, planning and logistics will be evaluated.

Additionally, we focus on public relations bringing the WRTC spirit to the residents of the region and to regional newspapers and TV stations. Moreover, we check the radio characteristics of the different sites using the world-wide CW skimmer network. Beside this, five teams will take part in the IARU HF Championship contest with the goal to find the best team in an internal competition.

The planned callsigns for this radio activity are

- for the contest: DD5M, DK2O, DR1X, DM5D and DR5L
- for the CW skimmer test: DB2B, DK7C, DM3W, DP9A and DR3W

The general goal of the test session is to learn and to detect chances for improvement in equipment and processes.

More details:

- Sites: The five sites represent the maximal extension of the planned WRTC 2018 area. Zossen is the most northern point whereas Elbe-Elster represents the most southern site. Thus, we can evaluate differences in radio characteristics. Moreover, we can spread out public relation activities to the local regions and communities.
- Planning and Logistics: Despite the fact that only five sites will be occupied in 2016 the test session is a useful and challenging prototype event for the WRTC 2018. For example, one kilometer of coaxial cable exceeds by far the quantity used for a standard fieldday station. The test session brings together about forty volunteers from all over Germany, travelling hundreds of kilometers to make the test session a success. This shows the strength of the WRTC idea that has already become alive in the German ham community.
- Public Relations: WRTC 2018 e. V. has invited journalists from local newspapers as well as from local TV stations to a press conference and a visit of a typical WRTC site. Moreover, the WRTC organizing committee has invited local politicians, landowners, farmers and residents to visit the sites and to learn how WRTC is working.
- CW-Skimmer Test: Following the approach of WRTC 2014 about 10 CW skimmers in EU and DX will protocol the transmission of the test stations. To evaluate that we have developed a plan defining timeslots, bands and directions for our transmissions.
- Contest: Two OP teams join the IARU contest in defined contest periods. Because Skimmer test and other activities are quite time consuming only limited time is available for the actual contest. Thus, an internal contest has been established to find the test session champion – for our excellent participants this is a real challenge.
- Team Building: Despite the fact that the volunteers only know each other from the bands and small projects the test session represents a new level in cooperative work. Moreover, many tasks are new, and several aspects bear the label “work in progress”. Therefore, the social aspect of the test session should not be underestimated.

The WRTC test session 2016 shows the spirit of cooperation and innovation. As a learning organization WRTC 2018 e. V. tries to make an important step towards evaluating the technology and proceedings for a successful German WRTC in 2018.

## ICOM is Platinum Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 20 July 2016

The organizers of the WRTC 2018 are happy to announce that ICOM Inc. will support the WRTC 2018 as Platinum Sponsor. This Japanese company has been leading in the development of novel techniques for short wave and VHF/UHF equipment for several decades. The company's close links to contesting can be seen in the initiative of the ICOM Contest Team and the support of the Contest University. As the main sponsor ICOM America had a great share in the success of the Olympic Games for radio amateurs in the WRTC 2014 in New England.

Ray Novak, N9JA, Senior Sales Manager of ICOM America stated: "ICOM fully understands the importance of the World Radiosport Team Championship as a founding sponsor with the 1990 event in Seattle. We are proud to have been a Platinum Sponsor in the WRTC 2014 and now the WRTC 2018 as this segment of the hobby is more of a lifestyle with incredible fellowship as well as fierce competitiveness."

Michael Höding, DL6MHW, Vice President of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee underlined: "It is a great pleasure for us that ICOM will become Platinum Sponsor for the WRTC 2018. Already at the WRTC 2014 we were overwhelmed by the easy-going positive readiness that was mirrored in our negotiations during the Hamvention 2015. The extraordinary commitment of ICOM means an enormous step forward towards the WRTC 2018." On top of the direct support of WRTC 2014 and WRTC 2018 ICOM will provide top teams with equipment. The winners of WRTC 2014, for example, used ICOM transceivers thus contributing to the further development of top technology.

WRTC 2018 e.V. would like to express its gratefulness for this most generous support.

## Base mounted YAESU Rotator to control the WRTC Beam

Published: 07 October 2016

As successfully implemented by many DXpeditions the WRTC beam will be rotated by a rotator mounted at the base of the tower supporting the beam. This setup has been successfully tested in July 2016 at five different locations of the designated contest area near the city of Jessen, situated to the south west of Berlin, Germany.

The rotator is mounted on a sturdy base plate. The telescoping tower is affixed to the top of the rotator by a set of clamps. The heavy-duty G-1000 DXC rotor will be exclusively used for the WRTC event. It has been donated by our Prime Sponsor YAESU.

The big advantage of this mechanical arrangement is the fact that the heavy rotator does not need to be pushed up when manually telescoping the antenna tower. Furthermore, the center of gravity is considerably lowered which translates into additional stability of the entire arrangement. Last not least a reduction of the wind surface is achieved and wiring the rotor as well as the initial positioning of the antenna becomes more comfortable.

The YAESU G-1000 DXC is sufficiently robust and features adequate torque to rotate the beam into any direction even in heavy winds and even without using proper thrust bearings. The telescoping aluminum mast - sponsored by Spiderbeam - supports the Spiderbeam at a height of 15m (45'). This is a reasonable height for a low angle take off of the antenna, which in turn should make the signals of the WRTC competitors sufficiently audible in the US and in Japan in spite of the fact that the competitors must not use more than 100 W of RF output power.

The experience gained and the lessons learned during the July tests will contribute to iron out any possible wrinkles.





## WR1TC active in WAG Contest in HQ modus

Published: 15 October 2016

To support WRTC2018 in Germany a group of US-hams lead by N1RR have organized a multi-operator activity to participate in the WAG this weekend. They will be on the air as WR1TC, the special call sign of the WRTC 2014 at Boston.

Like in HQ-operations in the IARU-contest they will take part simultaneously in CW and SSB on all bands with 2 stations each on 80m to 20m. It will be up to condx if fast NA-pile-ups will be possible on 15 and 10m.

Apart from points and multipliers WR1TC will count as a "joker" for the WWQR-award that can be applied for via DCL.

For German hams the WAG is a rich source of points for various awards, e.g. the top grades of the WWQR can be reached in these 24 hours especially as the new special call sign DF0WRTC will be on the air as well.

## SSB-Electronic is Bronze Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 04 November 2016

The organizers of WRTC 2018 are happy to announce that the "SSB Electronic" company has become a "Bronze Sponsor" of WRTC 2018.

According to their motto "Passion in high frequency" this German High-Tech company has designed, produced and distributed components for radio amateurs and commercial customers for 30 years. They were among the first to recognize the importance of promoting the idea of "Software Defined Radio".

Peter Schulte-Noelle of "SSB Electronic GmbH" underlines that his company has always had close links with Amateur Radio: "We know our roots very well and do our best to introduce scientific and technical innovations into the ham world to be always a bit ahead."

Chris, DL1MGB, welcomes their support stating: "The Organizing Committee of WRTC 2018 appreciates this support. For us it means the recognition of the WRTC as an important event in Germany. The donated SDR-transceiver "Zeus I" will help to provide the required financial means to stage the World Championships of Amateur Radio in Germany."

## WRTC 2018 Official Competition Rules Released

Published: 07 November 2016

WRTC 2018 e.V., host of the 2018 World Radiosport Team Championship, announced that the official competition rules have been published at <http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/competition>.

These are the rules that will be relevant for all WRTC 2018 competitors. "Thanks to everyone who has provided feedback during the rules review process," said Uwe Koenneker, DL8OBF, Director of the WRTC 2018 Rules Committee. "We have discussed the rules with potential competitors by e-mail as well as with the WRTC Sanctioning Committee. Publishing the rules about 20 months before the event gives potential competitors the chance to practice according to these rules."

"Based on the fabulous job done by the WRTC 2014 Committee in Boston, we have adopted the concept of Two-Operator Two-Transmitter competition," continued Koenneker. "Both stations will be permitted to transmit at any time to maximize their scoring and the fun of the world wide WRTC community."

Significant changes address the use of modern contest technology such as Software Defined Radio. For instance - whereas waterfall displays were not allowed in WRTC 2014 - nowadays this technology is standard and provided by most top transceivers. Therefore, displaying waterfall, spectrum and peak hold will be part of the game in WRTC 2018. However, focusing on operator skill any decoding assistance, e.g. by CW skimmer, is strictly forbidden.

Furthermore, some minor amendments are implemented in the rules. E.g. the WRTC 2014 has shown that the interface between station audio and referee headphone can cause time consuming issues. Therefore, the teams may provide a headphone for the referee to avoid this problem.

Any questions concerning the rules should be addressed to [competition@wrtc2018.de](mailto:competition@wrtc2018.de) or to the WRTC 2018 Mailing List (<http://www.wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/ueber-uns-2/maillinglisten-2>).

## Hambuy is Bronze Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 10 November 2016

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that Hambuy has teamed up with WRTC 2018 e.V. as the first Spanish Company for a Bronze Sponsorship for the World Radio Team Championship in 2018 in Germany.

Hambuy is a well-known Spanish Hamradio dealer, serving the domestic and international market with the latest Hamradio equipment and well as supporting their customers with a wide range of second hand gear.

"Radio contesting is part of our corporate DNA. The entire team behind Hambuy are active contesters. Therefore, we it was a natural choice to support the event through a bronze Sponsorship. We are confident that the WRTC 2018 in Germany will become a great success story and we are proud to be part of it." stated JuanMa Domenech (EC5AN), CEO of Hambuy upon the signature of the sponsorship agreement with the Tobias Wellnitz, EA4/DH1TW, WRTC 2018 ambassador for the Iberian Peninsula.

## WRTC Qualification is Over

Published: 15 December 2016

The CQWW CW was the last qualification contest for the WRTC 2018. With the claimed scores published last week we did a pre-final compilation of the qualification standings.

Despite the still missing results of the All Asia Contest the situation in several regions is clear.

With a difference of more than 1000 qualification points between the last qualification rank and the first follower we realize quite a stable situation in AS#2, AS#5, EU#6, NA#2, NA#5, NA#6, NA#7, OC#1, OC#2 and SA#2.

Very close, with a difference of less than 100 points, the situation in AF, AS#1, AS#3, AS#4, AS#6, EU#2 and EU#5 has not yet been decided. This is an indicator of the intensive fight until the last contests and the hard competition in these regions.

We are ready to calculate the final results when all final contest scores have been published, hoping that neither disqualifications nor missing data will confuse the final publication.

In the last two years we have faced high level radiosport in all regions of the world. Thank you for that. The qualification was accompanied by several discussions of an optimal qualification process. Fixing regions, contests and their weighting for a WRTC is quite sensitive. We have to thank the organizers from Brazil, Russia and the USA for their support in designing the qualification based on contest results.

We also hope to see the 9th WRTC with new ideas and improvements in the qualification procedure.

Finally, please consider a donation for WRTC2018 to make this event happen: just by using PayPal [spende@wrtc2018.de](mailto:spende@wrtc2018.de) or via the web-site: <http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/sponsors/how-to-contribute>

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017

Published: 24 December 2016

The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017! For those interested in our activities of 2016, feel free to download and read our review: WRTC Review 2016

## Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) and YASME Foundation - Gold Clubsponsors of the WRTC

Published: 06 January 2017

At the end of the year WRTC 2018 e.V. received very nice "Christmas presents" from the United States. The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) donated 4000 Euros to support the WRTC 2018 in Germany. They dedicated three tents in memory of their silent key members, including one tent dedicated especially to W3AU, W3GRF and W4KFC.

PVRC was founded in 1947 and quickly established a long tradition of club competition success in both domestic and DX contests. Today PVRC is a regional amateur radio club devoted to excellence in the competitive aspects of ham radio, particularly contesting. The club has over 750 members. As a result of keeping the tradition of "once a PVRC member, always a member" the club literally has members world-wide. Each June an on-the-air reunion is held that brings out the contest spirit and provides an opportunity to renew old friendships.

Moreover, WRTC got a donation by the YASME foundation to support the "Ham Widows' Ball" 2018. The "Ham Widows' Ball" is a major social event during the WRTC with the goal of gathering non-ham partners of the WRTC participants.

More tent sponsoring at the turn of the year were given by the South German DX Group, the Frankford Radio Club und K5WA.

Beside this we welcomed several significant individual donations by YLs and OMs.

WRTC 2018 e.V. expresses its sincere thanks for the generous support of WRTC 2018 and contesting in general.

## WRTC 2018 Sponsored Teams

Published: 17 January 2017

The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee is proud to make the next step towards the radio championships in 2018. We are announcing the first Sponsored Team led by Rick Tavan, N6XI. He sent his application in June according after the call of May 18th, 2016.

Rick is a well-known contester from California operating in ham radio contests for more than 50 years. He was a WRTC participant in 2010, finishing 25th in a strong field of top contesters. Based on this experience Rick wrote about his objectives: "My first goal will be to place better than I did in 2010. With the experience of one WRTC from Europe under my belt, I think this is very achievable. With adequate time to prepare and a strong partner, I think a Top 10 or Top 20 result is possible."

Sponsored teams are a long-standing tradition in WRTC and a substantial part of fundraising. Dedicated contesters who cannot qualify because of other serious commitments are given the chance to take part in the WRTC. As shown in WRTC 2014 Sponsored Teams do compete with qualified teams on the same level and have reached top scores.

We are still processing a few applications for Sponsored Teams after our first call in 2016. Now the last qualification contest is over, and its raw scores are online. Therefore, we invite more contesters to send their application for a Sponsored Team. The application should reflect the goals:

- Competitiveness
- Support of ham radio contesting and the spirit of the WRTC competition
- Enhancing technology and operating skills

Please send your application to [contact@wrtc2018.de](mailto:contact@wrtc2018.de).

## Deadline for WRTC 2018 Sponsored Teams

Published: 15 February 2017

Sponsored teams are a long-standing tradition in WRTC and a substantial part of fundraising. Dedicated contesters who cannot qualify because of other serious commitments are given the chance to take part in the WRTC. As shown in WRTC 2014 Sponsored Teams do compete with qualified teams on the same level and have reached top scores.

Now the last qualification contest is over, and its raw scores are online. We already have assigned three of five sponsored teams. Because we have now received several requests for sponsored teams we will set the deadline for requests to the 21st February 2017 2359 UTC.

After the informal request the sponsor and WRTC 2018 sign a formal agreement defining the framework. Then the sponsor transfers the deposit of 15,000 Euro to a trust account showing the seriousness of the application and sends in the formal application reflecting the goals of the team:

- Competitiveness
- Support of ham radio contesting and the spirit of the WRTC competition
- Enhancing technology and operating skills

After a positive decision of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee the sponsored team will be informed, and the money transferred to the WRTC 2018 account. If the application will not be accepted the 15,000 Euro will be retransferred as soon as possible.

Important note: According to the WRTC 2018 qualification rules a DQ in one of the qualification contests will exclude an operator from a sponsored team.

All applications should be sent to [contact@wrtc2018.de](mailto:contact@wrtc2018.de).

## HAM OFFICE is Bronze Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 18 February 2017

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that Arcomm GmbH, the developer of the HAM OFFICE Suite, has teamed up with WRTC 2018 e.V. for a Bronze Sponsorship of the World Radio Team Championship 2018 in Germany.

Arcomm from Berlin is a leading player in the field of ham radio software. The HAM OFFICE Suite is more than a logbook program. It also supports many domestic contests and provides geographical information and maps.

Torsten Kohnke, CEO of Arcomm, states: "It is a great honor for German amateur radio that the WRTC 2018 is staged in Germany. We have accompanied thousands of German speaking radio amateurs for 15 years with our HAM OFFICE software, many of them from their early days as SWLs or during their first practical training as hams, not only in Germany but in 47 further countries. Our

credo is that documenting practical amateur radio activities is enjoyable and mirrors results. Our target is the support of amateur radio on a high level. That is why it is our pleasure to become a sponsor of the WRTC.”

HAM OFFICE licenses will be tombola prizes for the Hamradio 2017 in Friedrichshafen.

We would like to express our cordial thanks for this extraordinary support of amateur radiosport.

## BMK Group is Bronze Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 21 February 2017

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that BMK electronic solutions GmbH has teamed up with WRTC 2018 e.V. for a Bronze Sponsorship for the World Radio Team Championship in 2018 in Germany.

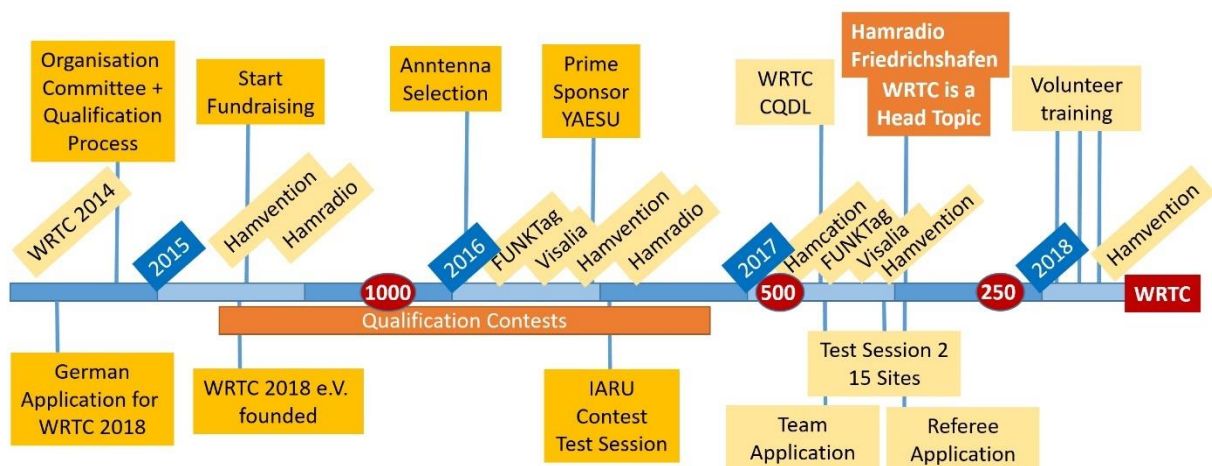
The BMK Group are contract manufacturers for electrical modules and devices with the core competencies in developing and manufacturing electronics.

During the handover ceremony of the sponsor plaque in Linden (Bavaria) Christian Janßen (WRTC 2018 President) expressed his deep thanks to René Schmidt, representing BMK: “BMK is our first industrial sponsor – demonstrating the useful relationship between engineering and radio sports”.

## WRTC 2018 is coming - 500 days to go

Published: 26 February 2017

Often the WRTC is rightly referred to as the Olympic Games of Radio Sport. “Olympiad” originally meant the period between the actual Olympic Games. There are now just 500 days in our “Olympiad” until the opening ceremony. A lot has already happened - but there is still a lot left to be done and time flies.



## Current facts and figures

- 60% of needed funds have been raised
- 11 ham fairs have been visited
- 94 presentations given in clubs and at meetings
- 40 articles published in magazines and newspapers
- 80 conference calls have taken place

- 1,000 WWQR Awards issued
- 58,000 QSOs with D\*0WRTC have taken place
- Several major sponsoring contracts are in place
- 23 international ambassadors have been assigned
- 14 national ambassadors have been assigned
- 40 Tents have been Sponsored
- 3 Teams have been Sponsored
- The qualification process is finished
- The competition rules are drafted
- 160 possible sites have been evaluated
- Antennas, masts and rotators have been selected and tested
- The first large test session has been completed

Several of the component projects are approaching a stable state however some projects are requiring more work than expected. We are on schedule and are proud to be the host. A great number of volunteers support the organization of the WRTC and dedicate many hours of their time for this very special event.

### Voices and feelings from the team

DL1RTL - Heiko (Volunteer): As a volunteer during the test day 2016 I have already helped in a team to set up a site for me WRTC 2018 offers the unique chance of being part of a genuine international championship.

DL9ZWG - Wolfhard (Treasurer): To me the WRTC 2018 means I have the opportunity to be a small part of a large group of "maniacs" who organize this extraordinary Amateur Radio Sport event in Germany. I particularly appreciate the fact that in the WRTC all teams have to compete under almost identical conditions (including similar site conditions).

DK9VZ - Wolfgang (Fundraising): I am very glad that we got the chance to present the international event WRTC here in Germany. I really don't have a lot of free time but I'd like to contribute as much as I can to the success of WRTC 2018.

DL3DXX -Dietmar (Log checking): I introduced computer aided log checking in the 90's for the WAEDC together with DL2DN. Invented STF log description as internal log format long before Cabrillo came up but never made it public. WRTC 2018 means for me to organize log checking of WRTC participants with the special characteristic that checking must be done for 24 hours' time frame. This is a new approach for me and requires not only to get the checking software running but furthermore to install a team of helpers to define the checking procedures and to split the work among all team members with the approach to check as much as possible during the given time to make checking procedures fair for all teams.

DJ3WE (Fundraising): It is most fascinating for me that - for the first time in my life - I can and may make use of all my skills, be it amateur radio or the command of the English language as well as playing and negotiating on an international stage. There is one particular matter that occasionally makes me sweat, the high expectations worldwide regarding our organizational skills given that we are up to now a very small group, too small.

DL1MGB (President): For me as a part-time organizer of DXpeditions WRTC 2018 is like 65 DXpeditions; a major difference is that we don't have to travel anywhere in 2018, rather the world comes to us! - for me WRTC 2018 is a perfect, unrestricted, way to bring together a lot of different ham radio groups into one large project.

DJ2YA (Site evaluation): For WRTC2018 I will be doing my best to provide the same "level playing field" for each location as well as helping with translations into English. As a WRTC-veteran (San Francisco, Bled and Florianapolis) I consider WRTC 2018 in Germany as the pinnacle event.

DL4ST - Steffen (Volunteer): As a member of the DARC district board for Saxony-Anhalt I am proud that a portion of our members are committed to taking an active role in the organization and preparation of the WRTC.

DM6DX - Robby (Ambassador-Berlin / Camping): As regional ambassador I have recruited a complete team of volunteers... .. the accommodation requirements are on track and before the test days in June we will have chosen the final tent model. ...the chairs can be evaluated soon. Just purchasing 130 suitable desk lamps has proved to be quite a challenge.

DK4QT - Dieter (AC-Member): I would like to use my capabilities to support the WRTC team and help to ensure a successful WRTC 2018. During 2017 I will advertise the event to possible WRTC helpers in DARC District N.

DJ9MH - Hajo (WRTC Award): Since the WRTC in California I have followed this championship attentively and worked its competitors. In Bled my xyl and I had the chance to have a closer look at the event. I attended the initial meeting of "WRTC 2018 e.V" which resulted in my allocation as an WRTC award manager and administrator of the special WRTC call signs

DJ6DC (Consultant): I am the designer of the basic concept "outdoor Facilities" I manage all interface definitions and operational plans and where possible also financial contributions... for me the WRTC 2018 is the pinnacle and a trend-setting event.

DF8XC (Volunteer): WRTC 2018 gives me the chance to get to know the leading contesters.

DL2MLU (PR): To contribute to something great, to be there and live the experience.

DL8OBF - Uwe (AC-Member): I am a member of the Advisory Committee for the WRTC 2018. I am also responsible for the competition-rules and response to any related questions raised. I am pleased to see the WRTC in Germany and to have the opportunity to display our hospitality to the visitors.

DL2RSF - Wolfgang (Volunteer): After applying to become a volunteer I joined a team on the test day at Jessen. For me erecting antennas is particularly exciting and interesting. Good health provided I'll certainly take part in the test days in 2017 and in any case in the actual event in 2018. Once more I'll be looking forward to making friends with other volunteers and participants

DL9GFB - Franz (Consultant): I will be available as needed, to help with any "jobs" during WRTC 2018  
WRTC 2018 = Most important event for Ham Radio in Germany!

DL2MLU Luise (Fundraising - Kacheln): For me WRTC means to contribute to something great, to be part of it and enjoy the experience

DK1DSA Ralf (Volunteer, Hospitality): As a radio amateur in Wittenberg I'm happily looking forward to such a great event in my home region. I am curious about the world's best contesters and this very exciting contest with its field-day characteristics, of which, until now, I have only been able to read about. In 2018 I'll be volunteer there as everything can be reached on foot or bicycle.

DL6RAI - Ben (IT-Manager): Providing IT services before and during WRTC 2018 requires special know how. We are happy to have built a great team that maintains several different web sites, provides 65 logging computers for the online-scoring function and created a custom web-based application to manage data and documents of the 65 different sites. Expectations are high and we are working on meeting them.



DM5EE - Uli (Volunteer): WRTC 2018 will put the German amateur radio community in the limelight and many friends from all over the world will gather here for the competition. It is a huge event that will present many challenges preparing for it but which will be a lifetime experience that I am anxiously looking forward to.

DH8BQA - Olli (PR-Team): Wrote few articles on WRTC technical related matters for German HAM magazines cqDL and FUNKAMATEUR. Assisting antenna director every now and then. Wish I had much more time available for WRTC organization. WRTC 2018 will be THE biggest event in German Amateur Radio history, at least from a contesting perspective.

## Elecraft becomes Silver Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 03 March 2017

The organizers of the WRTC 2018 are proud to announce that Elecraft will support the WRTC 2018 as a Silver Sponsor.

Michael Höding, DL6MHW, Vice President of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee said: „It is with great pleasure that we announce that Elecraft will become a Silver Sponsor for the WRTC 2018. It was at Dayton 2016 that Eric Swartz WA6HHQ, CEO of Elecraft, offered support but we needed some time to finalize the arrangements.”

The Californian company have developed top quality radios since the change of the millennium. The legendary K2 started as a QRP transceiver offering high end receiving characteristics and extraordinary low power consumption. Whereas the K2 was delivered as a kit for self assembly the following K3 model made the step up to a fully built radio. It combines low weight with high end characteristics. It is therefore the choice of many DXpeditions and was also utilized by many of the teams during the WRTC in 2014 which Elecraft also supported as a sponsor.

Elecraft's philosophy of sharing knowledge supported by excellent building manuals appeals to many hams. Eric was also a lecturer at the Contest University in Friedrichshafen in 2016.

WRTC 2018 e.V. is grateful for this most generous support from Elecraft.

## Update Sponsored Teams: #2 AA3B/W2GD and #3 K3LR selected

Published: 07 March 2017

WRTC 2018 is delighted to announce the approval of two more Sponsored Teams as we continue our consideration of several additional applications.

Team “AA3B/W2GD” brings together two very well-known and accomplished competitors from the Frankford Radio Club. John Crovelli (W2GD) is a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, has attended all of the WRTCs since Seattle (a four-time WRTC competitor), is well known for three decades of record setting operations from Aruba (P40W), and is a former editor of the National Contest Journal (NCJ). Bud Trench (AA3B) pilots a well-designed contest station in Boyertown (PA), finished sixth in the very competitive qualification region NA#1, and holds the CQWW CW SOLP world record set while operating as V26K. The team is supported by Chick Allen (NW3Y) who pointed out to us “I am convinced this FRC team has an excellent chance to win WRTC 2018.”

Team "K3LR" is led by Tim Duffy K3LR. Tim has won several times in his 45 years of contest activity in single-op and multi-op contests. His contest station is an example of top engineering and also is the starting ground for new top testers. K3LR is holder of numerous records especially in the most competitive MM category. Tim embraces the concept of "giving back" by helping Contest Universities not only in USA but also in other countries all over the world. Tim took part in four WRTCs as competitor and was active with WRTC 2014 as the technical advisor for the DL1QQ/DL8DYL team, finishing 21st. He announced that his teammate for WRTC 2018 will be Sandy Raker, DL1QQ.

We also learned that Rick Tavan, N6XI, now selected his team mate. Rick wrote "I am delighted that Andy Faber AE6Y/P49Y has agreed to join me at WRTC-18. He is a great operator, friend, and neighbor here in Northern California, and a fellow member of NCCC." Andy has had many top world finishes from his contest station on Aruba. The committee is sure that Andy is a very worthy competitor.

We are now processing the requests for sponsored teams in-line with the announcement from the 15th of February.

## WRTC 2018 is now Accepting Applications for Referees

Published: 13 March 2017

The Organizing Committee of the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) 2018 in Germany is opening the application process for qualified individuals that would like to serve as referees. WRTC is unique among amateur radio competitions in that it places an on-site Referee with every operating team. Application may be sent until October 31, 2017.

The primary responsibility of the referee is to monitor the competitors to confirm that they are following all of the WRTC rules. The referee may be required to make a ruling as to whether equipment can be replaced. Referees also serve as a communication back-up to report the score of their team on a regular basis for the online scoreboard.

Three times WRTC referee veteran Heinrich Langkopf, DL2OBF, asked: "Can you stay up 24 hours doing nothing but listening? Can you do this with a different audio channel in each ear? Yes? Then you should apply as a WRTC-referee! Help to make the next Olympics of Ham Radio possible and get access to the shack of some of the world's best testers."

The referee selection process is being led by Ulf Ehrlich, DL5AXX. "We are looking for qualified testers to serve as referees. With the rules allowing both operators to transmit simultaneously the role for each referee is really challenging. " The referee application form can be downloaded from the WRTC 2018 web site at

<http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/competition/qualification/referee-application> .

Referee qualifications include:

- Ability to travel to Germany in July 2018
- Fluency in English (all committee business is conducted in English)
- Ability to effectively monitor two audio streams at the same time
- Proficiency in both CW and SSB contesting
- Ability to stay awake and focused for the full 24-hour contest period
- Ability to send SMS text messages No hearing impairments
- No disqualification in the WRTC 2018 qualification period

The Referee application period closes on October 31, 2017 and announcement of the Referees and alternates is scheduled for December 1, 2017. You may send your application as well as your questions related to the WRTC 2018 Referees role directly to [application@wrtc2018.de](mailto:application@wrtc2018.de).

## Video "WRTC 2018 - The Place to Go"

Published: 13 April 2017

The WRTC 2018 is coming! Take a look at 'The Place to Go' in 2018. The WRTC is back in Europe again.

The WRTC area of Jessen/Wittenberg, is about 100 km South of Berlin and offers a flat terrain formed in the ice age many thousands of years ago. This is an ideal natural level playing field meeting the WRTC principals.

The region also offers beautiful countryside, historic towns and awesome gardens. Our video gives you an impression of the area. View the video on Vimeo now

WRTC 2018 - is THE place to go and not only for radiosport !

## Meet WRTC 2018 in Visalia, Dayton or Friedrichshafen

Published: 18 April 2017

(18th April of 2017) One of the main aspects of the World Radiosport Team Championship is to bring together hams for a big international event. The preparation is supported by numerous international ambassadors. Together with the members of the organizing committee, they spread the message of ham spirit and international friendship, which makes such a big event possible.

There are always many questions regarding WRTC in common and WRTC 2018 in Germany especially. The best way to get answers and the real feeling is to meet the organizers and ambassadors in person.

WRTC 2018 is attending the large ham radio fairs. During the Florida Hamcation 2017 Sandy (DL1QQ), member of the fundraising team, gave a presentation and answered questions supported by Tim, K3LR, and Dan, K1TO. WRTC 2018 is proud to have Dan and Tim working as ambassadors. Both are leading contesters and former WRTC participants. They were key supporters of the WRTC 2014 in Boston.

The next chance to meet WRTC organizers will be during Visalia IDXC. Chris, DL1MGB, president of the WRTC 2018 organization committee will give a presentation during the Contest Academy and at the Contest Dinner. Our ambassador W1RH for call area 6, and N6TV, who is in charge of the US award tile production, will be present as well.

For the Dayton Hamvention in May 2017, WRTC 2018 is preparing a booth. We will also be present at the Contest University and the Contest Dinner at the Crowne Plaza and there give a presentation at the Contest Forum.

At Ham Radio Friedrichshafen WRTC 2018 is one of the main attractions. You will have the chance to see the WRTC 2018 setup and win attractive prizes in a raffle for WRTC 2018.

Remember, WRTC 2018 is not only a 24-hour contest. It is similar to the Olympics, a four-year project full of the aspects of contesting, e.g. qualification, technical development and making friends. We'd like to visit your club or your local convention to promote WRTC 2018 and get you involved. Please contact us if you have any questions or want to make an appointment.

## Sponsored Teams: #4 YO3JR and #5 E73A selected

Published: 28 April 2017

WRTC 2018 is delighted to announce the approval of the last two Sponsored Teams. The selection process was focused on radio sport skills (competitiveness), support of the WRTC principals and the contribution of technological improvements in radiosport. Numerous excellent applications reached the committee. We are sure the selected teams will play an important role in the 2018 championship and will fight for top places.

Team #4 is led by Andrei Ruse, YO3JR, from Romania. He pointed out that his existing interest in radio contesting was amplified following the WRTC event in 2000 in Slovenia. Only 26 years old Andy took part in WRTC 2006 in Brasilia and also came back for the WRTCs in Russia 2010 and USA 2014. He is an example of how the WRTC and ham radio in general have a huge impact on young hams in improving operating skills as well as their tactical and technical abilities. These are the main ingredients required in order to be considered a top contender.

Team #5 is led by Ivo Pezer, E73A/9A3A. Ivo can be called a WRTC veteran. As a team leader he took part in three previous WRTCs in San Francisco 1996, Slovenia 2000 and Brazil 2006. He missed WRTC 2014 only because of a visa problem. Ivo's competitiveness is documented by outstanding contest scores resulting in an excellent qualification score in the very competitive EU#5 region. As an employee of the UN he has traveled to many countries, operating as a single op or part of multi op teams. Ivo plans to implement advanced SDR technology with the help of his announced team mate Ranko, 4O3A. This will again underline the impact of the WRTC movement on technological progress in ham radio contesting.

The selection of sponsored teams is now finished. WRTC 2018 has more excellent applications and every applicant would be an excellent team leader for the event. Unfortunately, we are limited to only five sponsored teams.

The other sponsored teams are led by

- Tim, K3LR and Bud-AA3B/John-W2GD (as announced on 7th March)
- and Rick, N6XI (as announced on 17th January)

## FlexRadio Systems - New Gold Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 02 May 2017

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that FlexRadio Systems will support the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany as a Gold Sponsor.

FlexRadio Systems provides a new approach in radio design. With its line of top-notch software defined radios (SDR) FlexRadio Systems brings new features to radio contesting. Using direct sampling the simultaneous observation of different bands through the use of spectrum scope views

and intelligent audio switching is available. Hence operating is not limited by having just two ears. These features offer new opportunities which could change contesting over the next decade.

Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, president of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee, emphasized the importance of teaming with innovative partners: "We highly welcome the support of FlexRadio Systems because one aspect of the WRTC is the development and evaluation of new technology."



Christian, DL1MGB, hands over the plaque for the Gold Sponsorship to Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR, President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FlexRadio System during IDXC 2017 in Visalia

## Ham Radio Outlet - New Silver Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 23 May 2017

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that Ham Radio Outlet will support the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany as a Silver Sponsor.

Ham Radio Outlet was founded in 1971 by Bob Ferrero, W6RJ (now sk). The successful family owned business has 15 sales locations throughout the United States. Its formidable presence on the Internet making it the largest Ham Radio dealership in the world. Bob W6RJ, was one of the early commercial sponsors of the WRTC idea. Following this tradition his son Robert W6KR, has signed the sponsorship agreement to support WRTC 2018 in Germany as a Silver Sponsor.

Robert pointed out "We are very excited to help promote such a fantastic event for ham radio!"

Christian Janssen DL1MGB, president of the WRTC-2018 Organizing Committee, emphasized the importance of long-term partners like Ham Radio Outlet: "The tradition of WRTCs started on the west coast of the USA. We are very grateful for the pioneering spirit of the ham community and ham radio suppliers. We will do our very best organizing the WRTC 2018 in Germany".



Christian presented the sponsors plaque during Hamvention in Dayton 2017 to Bob W6KR, and Robert W6RJ, who represent the third generation of Ham Radio Outlet.

## Dayton Amateur Radio Association is New Platinum Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 06 June 2017

WRTC 2018 is pleased to announce that the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) supports the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany as a platinum level club Sponsor with a significant financial contribution.



Christian, DL1MGB, hands over the plaque for the Platinum Sponsorship to Michael, W8CI, representative of DARA, accompanied by Tim, K3LR, Director of the Dayton Contest University

DARA is a nonprofit organization which manages the yearly Hamvention exhibition and fair in May. Hamvention is the biggest event of its kind in North America. Moreover, Dayton is the meeting point for the international contest community, hosting also the Contest University. 2017 was a very special year with the move to the new location in Xenia - a big and successful step for the event with a long tradition.

Michael Kalter, W8CI, from the DARA board stated "The Dayton Amateur Radio Association/Hamvention is pleased to become a Platinum Level Donor. Our club is happy to support this austere event and considers it an opportunity to promote overall excellence in Amateur Radio Operations. The nuances of communication techniques learnt in this event will elevate many areas of the radio service. Especially in times of emergency when solid communication is paramount. Thank you and good luck to all!"

Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, president of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee, emphasized "Dayton Hamvention has been the most famous ham radio meeting for many years. Dayton is the place where ham radio and especially contesting lives. The stamina of the DARA group to organize Hamvention year after year is an inspiring example and a boost for many ham radio projects around the world. The very successful move to the new location in Xenia gives us the certainty of many future WRTCs finding a safe harbour during Hamvention for networking and presentations."

Michael Kalter will visit Hamradio Friedrichshafen next month and give a presentation.

## WRTC 2018 Accepting Applications for Team Leaders

Published: 15 June 2017

The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee, host of the 2018 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) in Germany is pleased to announce that the application process for individuals that would like to participate in WRTC 2018 as a Team Leader is now open. Team Leader applications must be submitted no later than August 15, 2017.

WRTC is a competition among two-operator teams. A total of 63 Team Leaders will be selected from the top qualifiers in 29 regions from around the world. Each Team Leader then selects their teammate for the competition.

The Team Leader qualification formula consists of 12 scores selected from 32 qualifying events between February 2015 and November 2016. Full details of the qualification process can be seen at <http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/competition/qualification/selection-criteria-2> .

Chris, DL1MGB, president of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee, announced, "After two very exciting years of competition, we received the results from the final qualifying event. And now we are ready to receive the competitors' applications. It will be exciting to see who earns a place in the competition."

Team Leaders must apply no later than August 15, 2017 to be eligible for WRTC 2018. The application form can be found on the WRTC 2018 web site at <http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/competition/qualification/team-leader-application> .

Ulf, DL5AXX, is leading the competitor selection process. "All possible Team Leaders must apply using the application form on the WRTC 2018 web site." Ulf also encourages all of those with high rankings to apply because it is possible that some of those with higher scores in your Selection Area may choose not to apply. There will be five Wild Card Team Leaders selected from those applications that did not earn a spot as a Team Leader.

Ulf has been tracking the scores reported in the qualifying events. The 32 qualifying events included 30,814 operators who produced 141,787 scores! The qualification standings for all regions and qualifying events can be found at <http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/competition/qualification/standings-2> .

In addition to the regional qualifying, there are also three slots dedicated to contest teams with both members less than 25 years old before July 2018. Those interested in being considered for the Youth Team must follow the Team Leader application process.

Announcement of the Team Leaders is scheduled by beginning of September. Anyone that does not apply by the deadline will not be considered.

For all questions related to WRTC 2018 competitor applications, please send e-mail to [application@wrtc2018.de](mailto:application@wrtc2018.de).

## WRTC Test Session 2017

Published: 18 June 2017

In preparation for WRTC 2018, the second WRTC test day will take place from the 23rd to the 25th of June in Jessen and surrounding area. The focus will be on testing logistics and training the support teams. Radio operation and event reporting through social media will also take place during the tests. Nearly 100 volunteers are coming from all over Germany to build the fifteen stations.

Preparations have been underway for several weeks. Under Ralf, DK1DSA's control, all required equipment, from large to very small items were sourced to ensure the smooth running of the tests. Oskar, DL3OF, with many enthusiastic supporters has stocked the warehouse from which the WRTC sites will be supplied with equipment.



## Training

By Thursday evening, under the direction of Paul, DL5CW, the last preparation work will be completed so that the antenna training planned for Friday in Prettin can be tackled without delay. Friday evening will see the training of all the teams of helpers. The teams were chosen by Axel, DL6KVA, who will also coordinate the helpers in 2018.

Saturday will concentrate training on how sites are to be built. The fifteen teams will go to their sites and will be supplied with the required equipment by dedicated delivery vehicles. The goal is to assemble all structures quickly and smoothly, while documenting any areas where the process can be optimized.

## Radio operation and test

After each site is set up, radio operation is planned. This is mainly to test the online scoreboard system and as publicity for WRTC 2018. Measurements to compare the performance of sites are not planned. The radio operators in each location will decide how they will operate. On the low bands many DL OMs will undoubtedly call, as the 15 test session stations have specially assigned DOKs (club codes) WTT01 to WTT15. It is to be expected that there will be a lot of DX traffic in the evening on 20m or 15m as in the US it is the ARRL Field Day and many stations will be on the air. North America will surely be the main source for DX points at the World Championships next year.

A special diploma for contacts with the test stations is planned. To qualify a log must be submitted, which will then be compared with the logs of the test session stations. Details about the diploma and how to submit a request will be published soon.

## Evaluation and social media

On Sunday, all WRTC sites will be dismantled and the material checked and stored. It is very important that we collect and evaluate the ideas and suggestions for improvement at this point. We will try to let other amateurs view the event through live pictures on our Facebook page. Hamnet experiments are also planned. So, it is worth watching social media to get an idea how WRTC works. For us, this is also an experiment that should help us to evaluate the best techniques and new possibilities for 2018.

## Summary

The test session will cover

- Antenna installation training
- General team building
- Tent pitching training
- Radio operation (acting as advertising for WRTC 2018)
- Scoreboard system test
- Online media tests (Hamnet, Facebook, Website)
- Logistics

The following call signs and special DOKS are planned to be used:

- WTT01 DA0T
- WTT02 DR3W
- WTT03 DF5A
- WTT04 DP9A
- WTT05 DM3W
- WTT06 DM4X

- WTT07 DM5A
- WTT08 DM5D
- WTT09 DP4B
- WTT10 DP4D
- WTT11 DP5E
- WTT12 DP6T
- WTT13 DR1X
- WTT14 DR5L
- WTT15 DR5W

## WRTC Testsession 2017 - Logistics, Technology, Hamspirit

Published: 29 June 2017

The WRTC test day 2017 brought together more than 100 volunteers in the Jessen/Wittenberg region, to set up field day stations at 15 locations.

After the devastating storms on Thursday that had made the journey difficult for some, on Saturday morning all the teams were on site. The focus on Friday was the training of the participants, in particular the antenna teams. The training occurred at the campsite in Prettin. On Friday evening, further test participants arrived, filling the meadow with caravans and tents. Apart from the locals, there were also amateurs from Bavaria, the North and Baltic Sea coasts as well as from the far west of Germany. Not only were well-known faces from the test day in 2016 again present but also many new enthusiastic contesters between the ages of 20 and 80 years. Saturday was the main construction day.

The 15 locations were supplied with all materials using four transporters. The remote locations near Lübben and Zossen had to be patient for some time. In addition to the large items such as masts, Spiderbeams, tents, coax cable and generators there were also many tools and small parts to be transported. They were in "Box 1" and "Box 2", which also contained such useful and important parts as the red permanent markers and the lotion used for hand washing without water. The largest part, the solid floor, was delivered directly to the sites.

In all locations, antennas and infrastructure were built without any major problems. The wind made the antenna erection somewhat more difficult - fortunately the weather was sunny and dry. Site assembly required hard, concentrated work to ensure that all parts were correctly installed – essential for the correct operation of the stations.

After many hours of construction work it was then time for radio operation, recreation and exchange of experiences. Lessons learned notes were recorded and are now included in all further planning. The atmosphere was excellent - the mixture of hard work and amateur flair conjured up enthusiasm into many faces. New friendships have emerged, many ideas were born.

On Sunday morning the stations were dismantled. There was a schedule of when the materials would be picked up so that each team could dismantle accordingly. From 11 o'clock onwards the transporters arrived in the camps. At 3 pm everything was packed up.

Excellent preparation and the Ham Spirit of all participants made the test day a total success. We can look optimistically to 2018 when we will welcome 63 teams to Germany. For this, we need further support, e.g. Donations or registrations as volunteer helpers for the World Radio Team Championships 2018.

## WRTC 2018 at HAM RADIO Friedrichshafen

Published: 07 July 2017

Perhaps with reference to the WRTC 2018, the motto of HAM RADIO this year is "Germany plays host to the world" WRTC 2018 is presented in several places at the fair and in the seminar program. Chris, DL1MGB, speaks at the official opening of the hamfest. In addition to our stand in Hall A1, we will build a WRTC portable station in the courtyard.

The relevant times and dates can be found in the specific WRTC program, which is available here. The highlight of the event is certainly the "Meet the WRTC" on Saturday at the action stage, where WRTC participants from the last 30 years, sponsors and organizers will be greeted.

Do not miss the raffles, with prizes worth over 20,000 euros distributed across the five raffles!

## Honda Power Equipment is Platin-Sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 20 July 2017

The organizers of WRTC 2018 are pleased to announce that Honda Power Equipment is sponsoring the 2018 World Radiosport Team Championship as a platinum sponsor.

In 2018 the 65 WRTC stations will be supplied with mobile power from the proven Honda EU20i generators.

Even though power cuts are very rare in Germany, the use of mobile power offers advantages. The independence provided allows trouble-free operation of locations where mains power is not available. The WRTC operation acts also as a reference for emergency radio communications support.

Christoph Schmidt, representative of Honda Power Equipment, emphasizes this aspect: "Even if today, with its smartphone, you can reach almost any corner of the world without delay, amateur radio is the only technology that can work and help you communicate in an emergency. As Honda themselves found out in the Tōhoku earthquake in 2011. All that is required in addition to the radio equipment is electricity - so we are looking forward to supporting WRTC 2018 with our generators. "

Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, President of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee, thanked Honda for their support: "Without mobile power a radio world championship would not be possible. We are pleased to have found a supporter with Honda Power Equipment, whose technology stands for reliability and quality. "

The supply of the 65 WRTC sites with brand-new Honda generators follows the approach of the event organizers to do everything to ensure the equality of opportunity across all teams, who have qualified through an elaborate qualification process for the WRTC in Germany.

## DX Engineering Increases Support for World Radiosport Team Championship 2018

Published: 28 July 2017

DX Engineering has increased its support for the World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 (WRTC). The company is now a Gold Level sponsor. The announcement was made by WRTC 2018 at the Bavarian Contest Club annual dinner in Friedrichshafen, Germany this past July.



“DX Engineering is proud to support this outstanding event,” said Tim Duffy K3LR, Chief Operating Officer of DX Engineering. “We strongly believe in the global impact of WRTC2018 as Contesters and DXers from around the world will take part.”

“We welcome the increased support by DX Engineering,” said Christian Janssen DL1MGB, president of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee. “Teaming with innovative partners like DX Engineering will help insure the success of this event.”

WRTC 2018 will be held July 12-16, 2018 in the Jessen/Wittenberg region of Germany, south of Berlin. Approximately 60 teams will fight for the title of World Champion. Unlike the usual contesting, WRTC 2018 participants must use identical antennas in the same geographical region, which eliminates many variables. The WRTC 2018 will be supported by about 300 volunteers who will set up the antennas and host the infrastructure.

### About DX Engineering

At DX Engineering, Amateur Radio is all we do. Our goal is simple: fulfill the needs of Ham radio enthusiasts with the best products and technical support. Whether it's DXing, Contesting or just everyday operating, we strive to develop products that fill a specific need, are fully tested, reliable, and represent the best value for your money. DX Engineering also carries the highest-quality products from brands that meet our exacting standards. Read more about DX Engineering at [DXEngineering.com](http://DXEngineering.com).

### Test Session 2017 - Video online

Published: 05 August 2017

The test session in June 2017 was a very successful as training for the World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany. Steffen, DM6WAN, has compiled video sequences and photos into a

movie, presenting impressions and details of the event. It is a nice preview to 2018 showing work and the ham spirit. You will also find interviews in the Movies section of this page with English subtitles. Moreover we have links to several historic WRTC movies showing the development of the World Radiosport Team Championship over the decades.

## WRTC 2018 applicants testing days

Published: 11 August 2017

For the 2017 IARU HF World Championship, several applicants of the WRTC 2018 came to Germany to set up their stations and to test the local propagations. With great local support even contesters from all over the USA made their long way over the pond. On

<http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/competition/2017-iaru-en> you can find their logs, station description and even some pictures of their trials. Many thanks to those guys for sharing your logs with the other competitors you were not able to afford this pre-WRTC trip. And many thanks to those local Germans for offering their stations to the guests from abroad and taking good care of them.

## WRTC 2018 presentation at the Tokyo Hamfair

Published: 01 September 2017

The Tokyo Hamfair, one of the three major amateur radio events in the world, offered in 2017, the WRTC 2018 organizers the opportunity to promote the World Radio Teamsport Championships 2018 in Germany. A three-person delegation traveled to Tokyo at the invitation of Zorro Miyazawa JH1AJT. They will promote, through their own booth, the WRTC idea to the Japanese radio amateurs.

Japan is, after all, one of the leading amateur radio nations and many Japanese amateurs take part in DX contests. In addition, the Japanese amateur radio industry is renowned for its quality and innovation. YAESU, the prime sponsor of WRTC 2018 has already made a large donation to the WRTC. A meeting with the YAESU management is planned as well as a lecture in the Hamfair's conference program.

We hope to conquer the hearts of the Japanese radio operators. Possibly, the Japanese Hams take to the ideals of the WRTC and with enthusiasm (as we will surely see at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in 2020), host the next WRTC?



Zorro, JH1AJT, with the WRTC team Rudy - DJ3WE, Sandy DL1QQ, and Chris, DL1MGB

## Call for WRTC 2022

Published: 15 September 2017

*WRTC 2018 e.V. is pleased to publish the following appeal to the international contesting community at the request of the WRTC Sanctioning Committee*

Greetings to the World's Radiosport Community,

As you know, we are all anticipating the 2018 World Radiosport Championships (WRTC) to be hosted in Germany next July. Preparations have gone well, including tests of the stations and antennas in the field during the IARU HF Championships. Score reporting, log checking, and other crucial administrative systems are in the final stages of preparation and testing. The final round of qualifying scores has been published and applications for Team Leaders are being accepted. We congratulate the WRTC-2018 committee on their superb organization and transparency to date!

Like the International Olympics, it is important to provide continuity for the WRTC program and give the radiosport community as much time as possible to prepare for each event.

Thus, it is appropriate at this time to begin the process of considering where WRTC-2022 will be held and who will make up the organizing committee. The WRTC Sanctioning Committee is responsible for evaluating requests to host a WRTC event and selecting the winning applicant.

In order to begin the evaluation process, the WRTC Sanctioning Committee requests any potential sponsor to send a written letter of intent to our chairman, Tine Brajnik, S5ØA, at the address below. The letter should identify the group's primary leaders and contact information, along with the general time frame and location for the event. We will then respond with the WRTC requirements document from which a formal proposal can be created. The deadline for submitting the letter of intent is December 31, 2017. Formal proposals will then be accepted until March 1, 2018.

The WRTC Sanctioning Committee stands ready to answer questions and provide whatever information we can to assist potential hosts in expressing interest and making an application. It is our plan to announce the selected hosts for WRTC-2022 during the closing ceremonies of WRTC-2018. Thank you for supporting WRTC with your donations, attendance, and most importantly, by participating. Since the first WRTC in 1990, the event has grown due to the enthusiastic endorsement of the world radiosport community from all around the world. It is a distinct pleasure to begin the long journey towards the ninth WRTC in 2022, wherever it may be held.

Sincerely and 73,

The World Radiosport Team Championship Sanctioning Committee

- Tine Brajnik, S5ØA, WRTC-2000 President, WRTC Sanctioning
- Ward Silver, NØAX, WRTC-1990 Committee Secretary
- Dan Eskenazi, K7SS, WRTC-1990
- Atilano Oms, PY5EG, WRTC-2006
- Bob Cox, K3EST, WRTC-1996
- Sergio Almeida, PP5JR, WRTC-2006
- Rusty Epps, W6OAT, WRTC-1996
- Harry Booklan, RA3AUU, WRTC-2010
- Robert Bajuk, S57AW, WRTC-2000
- Roman Thomas, RZ3AA, WRTC-2010
- Martti Laine, OH2BH, WRTC-2002

- Doug Grant, K1DG, WRTC-2014
- Jukka Kulha, OH2MA, WRTC-2002
- Randy Thompson, K5ZD, WRTC-2014

## Teams nominated for WRTC 2018 Competition

Published: 01 October 2017

WRTC 2018 e.V., organizer and host of the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) 2018, is proud to announce the 63 teams that will be invited to compete in Germany next July.

WRTC is a competition among two-operator teams. Team Leaders have now been selected for each qualifying region based on 2 years of qualifying contest scores. The Team Leaders were given the option to select any operator as a Team Mate to complete their team.

The team application and verification process was managed by Ulf Ehrlich, DL5AXX. Ulf pointed out: "This will be a very competitive field. The top three teams of WRTC 2014 in Boston will participate once again in the 2018 event!"

The five sponsored teams, all representing high level contesters, have already been announced some time ago. The selection of the Youth and Wild Card Teams required a more formal application process and, therefore, could only be completed recently.

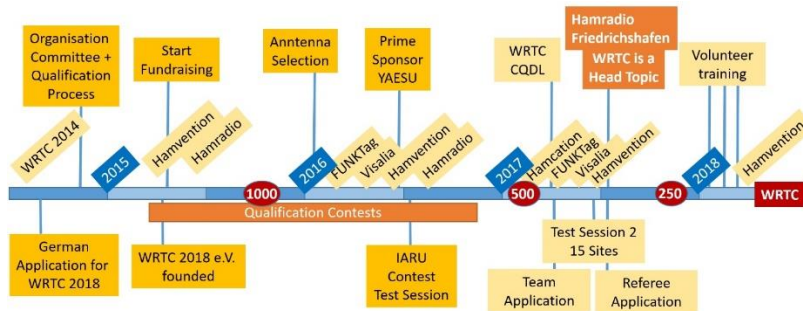
WRTC 2018 e.V. has received seven applications from Youth Teams, representing contesters younger than 25. The selection was based on the number of qualification points, as defined in the rules. Team Leaders will be CE2MVF (9107 points), YO8TTT (7254 points) and HA8RT (5056 points). These results made it easy to decide in favor of the three Youth Teams invited to participate in the WRTC 2018 competition.

Issuing Wild Cards has been an entirely different process. Similar to the approach taken by the organizers of the WRTC 2014 in Boston we have selected UN9LW (with Team Mate UN7LZ), who missed the qualification criteria by just 24 points. Honoring the cleanest log of high scorers ZL3CW (with F6BEE) was offered another Wild Card. Because of the close competition in region EU#5 featuring outstanding results another Wild Card was offered to 9A7DX (with 9A3LG) to join WRTC 2018. We also invited YV1DIG, performing excellently behind the curtain of zone 9 DXpedition stations. Finally, we unanimously selected K1DG, chairman of the WRTC 2014, well known top level contester, and champion of the first WRTC in 1990. Not only did he do an outstanding job in Boston. By offering a Wild Card to him we also wanted to express our appreciation and thanks to all of the many fine people making WRTC 2014 in Boston such a great success. His Team Mate will be N2NT - 2014 Competition Director and number five in NA#1 with 10.6 k points.

When making the announcement, WRTC 2018 President Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, stated: "We are pleased to see a mix of veterans of previous WRTC events and first-time participants among the competitors. The teams represent over 35 countries and a wide range of personal backgrounds. While the focus will be on the competition, we are looking forward to hosting the teams and celebrating a week of ham spirit together with competitors, organizers, volunteers and sponsors during the WRTC week."

## WRTC 2018 is coming - 250 days to go

Published: 03 November 2017



There are now just 250 days to WRTC 2018 in Jessen/Wittenberg. A lot has already happened - but there is still a lot left to be done and time flies. In recent months, important subprojects have been finished.

- The qualification stage is completed with the applications received from and invitations sent out to the participants.
- At the IARU Contest, several WRTC 2018 participants visited Germany and have already evaluated propagation routes and station equipment.
- During the big test day, 100 volunteers at 15 locations tested the WRTC 2018 technology and logistics.
- Here as well as at “Ham Radio” in Friedrichshafen you could feel a great deal of the Ham spirit, which carries us along the way to WRTC 2018.

The most important aspect of the WRTC is of course the sport. Meanwhile, the participants are confirmed (see Participants Page). To mark 250-days out from the event we asked the participants a few questions and asked them to tell us about their enthusiasm.

### Generation-Connecting Sport

Looking at the age structure of the WRTC 2018, a picture emerges that makes amateur radio sport something special. The youngest participant is Bryant, KG5HVO, at the age of 14. The oldest is the well-known Contester Marwyn, N5AW, at the age of 77. In between, all age groups are represented almost equally, so that we will experience amateur radio not only as a global sport but also as a generation-connecting one. All participants compete in the same competition and on the same level.



Very Young Competitors: Tamas -HA8RT, Bryant - KG5HVO, Xenia -ZL4YL

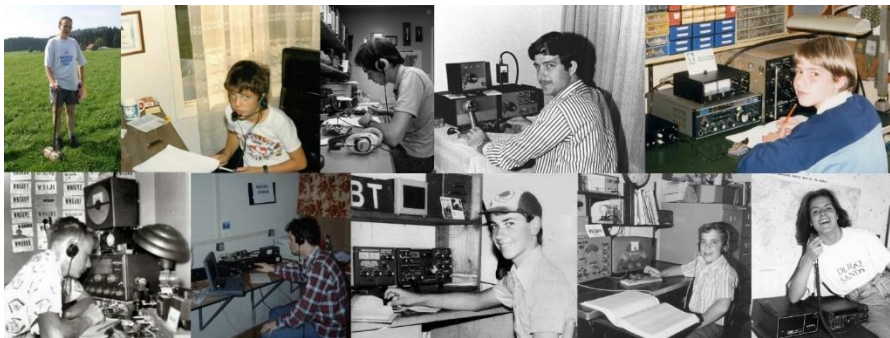




Very experienced Competitors Marvin- N5AW (77), Alan - N3AD (75), Dale VE7SV (73)

### Start Young for a lifelong Sport

Another view point shows a very uniform picture. Almost all of the participants started amateur radio as teenagers, i.e. they acquired their first license as a teenager and continued into a lifelong radio sport passion. The survey showed an average age of 13.3 years when the competitor's first amateur radio license was achieved.



Starting young - teenager contesters from five Decades

### Great Expectations

Asked about the sporting goals, there were a number of interesting answers. There were clear announcements, for example, from reigning World Champion Chris, KL9A "To Win!", Vice-champion Tonno, ES5TV with "Gold", or Stefan, DL1IAO, (bronze at WRTC 2014) with "To do the best within my limits and get on the Podium! ". However, there were also cautious remarks such as those of Bud, AA3B, "To be competitive." Or Ingo, SM5AJV, "To have our best competition position ever.", also show clear sporting ambitions.

Asked about who was expected to be on the podium, the reigning World Champions N6MJ / KL9A were mentioned several times. Several answers favored the medalists of the previous two World Championships. There were also calls such as "It's time for the German team!" Or "EU teams" from the participants. It's going to be exciting.

The expectations of the German organizers were pretty much the same. K5WA writes: "TNX a lot for all you are doing to make WRTC 2018 a success. You have my respect! ". With this motivation, the organizing team and the many volunteers will continue to work hard for the next 256 days, so that on July 16, 2018, we can select the next World RadioSport Champion.

## RigExpert is a silver sponsor of WRTC 2018

Published: 12 December 2017

The organizers of the WRTC 2018 are pleased to announce that RigExpert is supporting the Amateur Radio World Cup 2018 as a Silver Sponsor.

The antennas used at WRTC 2018 will be measured using the RigExpert Antenna Analyzer AA-35 Zoom. All antenna assembly teams will be equipped with identical antenna measuring devices. The aim is to provide the same resonant frequencies for all antennas and to clearly document the values found. The AA-35 Zoom is ideal for this. The color display allows for a variety of views that indicate that RigExpert's developers are experienced radio amateurs and antenna builders. The supplied software allows the high-resolution presentation of the results, which will become part of the location documentation pack.



RigExpert was founded in 2004 by four radio amateurs. So far over 30,000 antenna analyzers and 10,000 RigExpert interfaces have been sold. With annual sales of \$1.5 million, RigExpert is No. 1 in the Ukraine. Referring to the support of WRTC 2018, Kataryna Bystriakova, R&D Manager at RigExpert, emphasizes "We love WRTC from the moment of foundation! It will be a honor finally to support WRTC-2018!". Kataryna continues, "RigExpert's founders and associates have long been associated with the WRTC. E.g. Sergei Litvinov (UX1UA), one of the founders, was a referee at the WRTC 2000 ".

Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, President of the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee, expressed his thanks for the support: "A clean antenna system is one of the key components of a WRTC station. With RigExpert's antenna analyzer we can guarantee that all measurements are equivalent. In addition, the results can be saved and printed out. "

To meet the special requirements of WRTC 2018, RigExpert will provide a special version of the AA-35 Zoom. Since each antenna team will build four sites additional memory will allow the recording of all data from the antennas of all competition sites. Chris, DL1MGB, was delighted when testing the first device "The short display of the WRTC 2018 logo is an eye-catcher. Many thanks to RigExpert for their support and the uncomplicated operation of the devices ".

Already during the WRTC test day 2017 RigExpert antenna analyzers were used, which were used to help optimize the antennas.



Photo; Uli, DJ2YA, measures the WRTC beam (Photo: DL5SFI)

WRTC 2018 e.V. are very happy to welcome support from the Ukraine, a country that repeatedly provides many participants in major international contests.

## Referees for WRTC 2018 Announced

Published: 17 December 2017

WRTC 2018 e.V., host of the 2018 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) in Germany, is pleased to announce the 65 referees (63 on site and 2 alternates) that will be monitoring the competing teams during the competition July 14-15, 2018.

A referee will be on site at each of the 63 competing stations to verify compliance with the rules and make decisions on any rule questions by the teams. The referees must be top-level contesters because they must simultaneously listen to the audio from both operators for the entire 24 hours of the WRTC2018 competition.

The referee application and verification process was managed by Ulf Ehrlich, DL5AXX. There were over 130 applications received. The selection process considered many factors, including geographical areas, language skills and SO2R ability. The final selection was done by the Judging Committee of the WRTC 2018.

The Judging Committee is responsible for certifying the results of the competition. Ulf Ehrlich DL5AXX is leading the committee of Dietmar Kasper, DL3DXX, Nodir Tursoon-Zadeh, EY8MM, Randy Thompson, K5ZD, and Bernd Länger, VK2IA.

The list of all referees can be seen at <http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/competition/referees>.

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018

Published: 23 December 2017

The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018! For those interested in our activities of 2017, feel free to download and read our review: WRTC Review 2017

## WRTC 2018 - Organization meeting in Berlin

Published: 08 January 2018

On January 6, the WRTC organizers met in Berlin to discuss final event planning. Because of the very extensive agenda, the meeting started at 8 o'clock and lasted until late in the evening. A total of 14 topics were discussed, from detailed event planning to IT, financing and the management of the volunteer helpers.



With regards to financing, some additional costs still have to be met. The lead fund raiser Rudolf DJ3WE, however is confident that the funds will be raised over the next few months thanks to our donors. The delivery of the station packages from the 1st. of February will be an important milestone.

The big challenge in the next few weeks is recruiting about 150 additional on-site volunteers. In particular, site managers are being sought who will look after the competition sites and the competitors in the field. Many questions were discussed, and solutions agreed. For example, it was decided that all on-site helpers would be invited to the grand award ceremony on the Monday evening. In the next few weeks, a special presentation of the active clubs and participants will be provided.



The WRTC 2018 e.V. has implemented the VOTA diploma scheme to recognize the work of the volunteers who will, on air during 2018, give out exclusive VOTA numbers from their own stations that count towards the VOTA award scheme. The diploma and awards can now be applied for via the DCL page on the DARC website.

All previously open questions had solution proposals developed and assigned to the responsible people. There is still lots to do so that German WRTC will deliver the expected success.

## Volunteers-On-The-Air - WRTC 2018 e.V. Announces VOTA Award

Published: 12 January 2018

WRTC 2018 e.V. - VOTA Award for 2018. This award recognizes that the volunteers are at the core of the radio world team championship in Germany without whom it would not be possible. Volunteers, set up antennas and tents, look after the competition sites and participants and work in the event office.

Each registered volunteer has an exclusive VOTA number for 2018 and can give it out through his or her amateur radio activities. The volunteer thus represents the WRTC on the air.

The VOTA Award can be applied for via the DCL (DARC Community Logbook <https://dcl.darc.de>). The exact diploma conditions are documented on the web page. The diploma application is generated automatically and the VOTA numbers list stored in the DCL.

So far, over 125 VOTA numbers have been issued. The current list is located at VOTA list. Among the list is exotic number DP-001, which will hopefully be activated soon by DP1POL (DL5XL).

A first activity hour is scheduled for Sunday 14th. January from 8 to 9 UTC on 80 m. Many volunteers want to be QRV and distribute their VOTA number. Activity hour contacts added to QSOs in the subsequent 10-m contest may make it possible for the first VOTA Award (number 1) to be awarded.

## WRTC teams will operate RDXC this weekend

Published: 16 March 2018

The ongoing Russian DX Contest will include a significant number of WRTC teams testing equipment and operating. RDXC is the ideal contest for that: it is mixed mode and has a M2 category, allowing the simultaneous operation of two radios. This is quite similar to WRTC rules, so many teams will bring their filters and triplexes into action.

We heard rumors that Manfred DJ5MW, is traveling to Sweden to join Stefan DL1IAO, for a test with SM9A. Tim K3LR, is coming to Germany to operate DR8A with his team mate Sandy DL1QQ. DA0AA is "manned" by Maddin DL4NAC and Irina DL8DYL. Whereas RDXC will deliver nice pile-ups the teams will probably also need time to optimize their equipment.

Thus, the final score achieved in RDXC will be not the main priority because the score in the World Radiosport Team Championship in July 2018 will be the final destination of each team's four year journey.

If you are a WRTC competitor or work one of teams testing please drop a comment or a sound snippet on our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wrtc2018>

The Picture shows Ranko, 4O3A, with his WRTC 2014 setup. Ranko introduced triplexer technology to short wave contesting during WRTC 2006, now a standard for many contest stations.

## WRTC 2018 - Fundraising - a look at the current situation

Published: 20 March 2018

About a hundred days before the start of WRTC 2018, it's time to take a look at the fundraising status.

Rudolf DJ3WE, who took over the management of the fundraising team at the beginning of the year, informs us that so far donations of about €500,000 have been received. Rudolf has been part of the fundraising team since 2016 working with our major sponsors including YAESU and WiMo. He brings along the necessary skills for dealing with business partners through over 30 years of professional experience in various business positions.

Of the total amount raised so far, nearly €200,000 is from donations from some 900 individual donors coming predominantly from Germany (74%) and North America (21%). In addition, around €70,000 were donated to us by amateur radio clubs. This includes €10,000 each, from DARC districts and local German clubs.

Tent sponsorship has contributed €65,000 to the sum. We received a further €75,000 from sponsored teams, i.e. competitors who pay to take part rather than qualifying through other contests. Companies have supported us with a total of almost €90,000. Direct donations and company discounts account for another €100,000.

Thank you to all donors and supporters.

Overall, our current finances cover approximately 97 percent of our estimated costs. However uncertainties exist, including possible tax payments due, so we are not yet quite able to say we have accumulated the required finances. Overall however it looks good.

We hope to be able to raise the remaining funds required in the next 100 days and look forward to receiving every donation large or small.

## WPX SSB contest THIS COMING WEEKEND is your chance to work the bigger WRTC team.

Published: 22 March 2018

The upcoming WPX SSB contest (March 24-25, 2018) will fill the band with thousands of contest calls. Among the crowd there will be a number of the larger WRTC team.

What do we mean by larger WRTC team? WRTC is not only an event for the 126 active competitors. There are also 63 referees performing the hard job of observing 2 channels of high speed qso traffic for 24 hours. Beside this there are more than 300 volunteers working in support roles. They will support the WRTC with nearly a week of their own time to set up and support the 63 operating sites south of Berlin. Many of the volunteers are also contesters and will be taking part in the WPX contest.

For you to identify these volunteers we have provided an XDT-File for wintest with the names and VOTA numbers of the volunteers. The VOTA number exclusively identifies a WRTC 2018 volunteer and is valid for the VOTA Award (<http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/activities/wwqr-award-me>). It consists of a Prefix and a running number. For instance, Dave, K3ZJ, will give out K-001 and Manfred DK2OY, DL-016.

The wrtc.xdt file also contains the calls and names of all competitors and referees. Please import the file into your contest logging program and give the WRTC TEAM a short "GO WRTC" to motivate them for the very special event coming up in summer 2018.

Wintest instructions:

- Download the XDT-File: <http://wrtc2018.de/images/wrtc.xdt>
- Save the file into /ProgramData/win-test/extras
- Select wrtc.xdt under Options | Data files | Default data files
- Press ALT-X to bring the information window to your screen

## 100 days to go - Sight Seeing Tours and Event Tickets around WRTC 2018

Published: 03 April 2018

WRTC 2018 is not just a radio contest. It also provides testers and their families the opportunity to gather and visit interesting places around the region where the contest is hosted.

Visitors to WRTC 2018 in Germany can now book tours and tickets via <https://booking.wrtc2018.de/en/offers> No registration is required, and payment is easy e.g. using Paypal.



Just skip the registration page and navigate to the offers. You will find three sections: Hotels, Events, and Sightseeing. (You can ignore the Hotels tab.)

The middle tab lists the WRTC events. You can book tickets for the opening (Thursday) and closing (Monday) events under this tab. We have more than 100 available tickets for visitors for both events. (Please note: Dinner 1 and 2 are restricted to participants, referees and accompanying persons and so cannot be booked.)

The right tab provides the list of sightseeing tours. The WRTC schedule allows competitors time to take the Thursday tour to Leipzig and the Monday tour to Berlin. The buses will leave after the meeting on Thursday morning and will be back in the afternoon to give you enough time to change for the opening ceremony.

During the times that the teams will be busy (Friday for station setup and Saturday/Sunday for the contest) we are running tours to Dresden and Wörlitzer Park for non-competitors.

All tours use first class buses with English speaking tourist guides.



Don't forget to put some Sightseeing of Wittenberg into your schedule. The WRTC is based in the center of this historical town in the heart of Europe and gives you a unique and easy way to learn more about the history of the region. The tourist guides walk with you through the city centre, telling fascinating stories about Martin Luther or show you the place where Wilhelm Weber was born, (Weber invented wire-based telegraphy with Gauss in 1833).

Especially for our friends from Russia: Dalichow Events can organize Wittenberg sightseeing tours in the Russian Language. Please let us know asap if you require them to organize a Russian Language tour.

#### [Additional events and offers \(not yet bookable\)](#)

Don't forget the "Ham Widows Ball" on Wednesday evening. This event was started at WRTC 2014 to bring together the XYs and OMs of the competitors and referees. (You can read the story about the 2014 event in the excellent book "Contact Sport" by J.K. George N3BB).

We could also organize a "Beer DXpedition" on Wednesday evening. This would be a scientific approach to beer drinking with a visit to the historical brewery in Wittenberg and other places associated with beer.

#### [A Personal Note by DL6MHW](#)

I do not live in the Wittenberg/Jessen region but I'm not far away. Of course, Dresden, Leipzig and Berlin are places you should visit. Dresden is famous for culture, art and baroque architecture. Leipzig is different and fascinating. It is a historic place. e.g. with the Völkerschlacht, where Russia and the allied countries won against the Napoleonic army in 1813.





But my “insider tip” is a trip to the Wörlitzer Park. This is a beautiful historic garden from the 18th century. A visit provides a relaxed day with short walks and a boat trip and will be the ideal Sunday trip for those who are not busy in the contest.

If I were to make a Top-3 List it would be:

- Wörlitzer Park,
- Sightseeing in Wittenberg
- Visit to Leipzig

(If you have an additional day before or after the WRTC you should fit in a trip to Dresden.)

## Conclusion

Please book your tickets and bus tours now via <https://booking.wrtc2018.de/en/offers>

You can book additional tours later but there may be limited seats available.

Moreover, please let us know if you are interested in either the “Beer DXpedition” or the “Russian language sightseeing tour of Wittenberg”.

To contact us please E-Mail [hosting@wrtc2018.de](mailto:hosting@wrtc2018.de) and ask Ralf, DK1DSA (WRTC 2018 director for lodging & hospitality)

## Funktag Kassel - DIG hands over donation to WRTC 2018 e.V.

Published: 13 April 2018

At the 3rd “Funktag” in Kassel the WRTC 2018 e.V. was again represented with its own booth. Almost 100 days before the opening of the world radio team championship in Jessen / Wittenberg, anticipation of the big event in July was high.



Located at the entrance, the small group led by Ralf, DK1DSA were able to welcome the many supporters and enter into some interesting discussions. Most questions were easily answered. The plans are progressing. The allocation of the site based teams, who support individual competition locations is in its final phase.



A highlight of the "Funktag" event was the handing over to the WRTC of a donation by DIG (Diplom Interessen Gruppe). DIG supplied the WRTC 2018 organisation with a cheque for 1000 Euros. The DIG members see the WRTC as falling into the tradition of the DIG, which has been committed to radio sport and awards for the last 50 years. Related to the WRTC, Hajo, DJ9MH, the Awards Manager of the WWQR (Worked WRTC Qualification Regions) and an active DIG member reported that almost 1900 award certificates have been issued. During the WRTC 2018 there will also be some limited time award competitions. The WRTC 2018 e.V. would like to thank the DIG for their kind donation and the support and advice given.

## Five new awards for WRTC 2018

Published: 02 May 2018

Wittenberg (DF9XV). The list of WRTC award certificates is getting longer: five more will be added to the two existing award programs for the WRTC which will take place on the 14th. and 15th. of July. "With our awards, we want to increase the already large, international interest in the WRTC, creating for the WRTC competitors good sized pile-up's to work. We also wish to reward all the YLs and OMs that make the pile-ups in the competition possible." said Michael Höding, DL6MHW, from the WRTC organizing team. The previous award programs WWQR and VOTA raised great interest: Awards Manager Hajo Weigand, DJ9MH, has already issued more than 1800 award certificates.

Those who reach all WRTC stations can download the "Worked All WRTC Stations (WAWRTC)" diploma after the competition completes, from the Internet. "A log does not have to be sent in. The data to create the certificates is generated from the log books of the WRTC stations." explained Hajo.

The "WRTC Sprint" diploma is appealing for determined diploma hunters, because it is all about speed. Those who contact all 63 WRTC stations (regardless of operating mode or band) within a short period of time will be honoured with a certificate. The award also takes into account the 29 different WRTC qualifying regions across North and South America, Oceania, Africa, Asia and Europe. The leader in each region will receive a special prize in addition to the certificate.

Those YL's and OM's that contact the WRTC stations on all bands and modes, should aim for the "WRTC Most QSOs (MQ)" diploma to add to their collection. The maximum number of contacts for all WRTC stations on CW and SSB across all five amateur contest bands would be 630. Will anyone reach

that? Here too, a separate classification is made under the 29 WRTC regions. The regional winners will each receive a special prize.

The WRTC 2018 Distance Challenge is about contacts over as many kilometres as possible when making up to the maximum possible 630 contacts with the WRTC teams. This special price is attractive to those who can show the most kilometres from the logbook ", reports Michael Höding.

All contacts of the WRTC teams will be verified by the referees. as in many sports, the WRTC referees rely on assistance. The most assistance provided to WRTC referees comes from the logbooks of amateurs that contact the WRTC teams and are received by 18:00 UTC on Sunday, July 15. The amateurs submitting these check-logs will all go into a draw for the "Assistant Judge" prize.

All details of the awards will be published on the WRTC 2018 website at

<http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/activities/wrtc-2018-en>.

## Meet WRTC 2018 in Crown Plaza Dayton

Published: 18 May 2018

(mhw) When you looking for WRTC 2018 in Dayton you will find a probably unmanned booth. In 2018 all our work is focused on the finale preparation for the big event in July 2018. Therefore only a small delegation visit Dayton this year. You will find Chris, DL1MGB, in Crown Plaza in the Contest Super Suite. You can ask him everything. Chris has also the honor to be the dinner speaker during the annual contest dinner on Saturday evening.

## On the way to the real-time scoreboard

Published: 29 May 2018

Wittenberg. (xv) How's the competition going? Who is ahead? Where is a particular team? Answers to these questions interest competitors and spectators alike, in every sport - including radio sports. It's about speed not only with the operators at the WRTC stations but also with results reporting. On-line presentation of the current score requires a lot of technical effort behind the scenes! Ben Büttner, DL6RAI, who leads the responsible IT team at WRTC 2018, says: "We want to make sure that from all competition locations, the on-going results in minute intervals are available on a scoreboard similar to a Football league table and at the same on the Internet published on [www.wrtc2018.de](http://www.wrtc2018.de). "In order for this to work, special attention is attached to unwanted RF radiation, thermal stability and redundant power when we build the Score Collection Computers (SCC). An important goal is that there should be no disruption during the competition."

The SCCs, which are built on a RaspberryPi base, collect the information required for the presentation of the results from the relevant logbook software at each site and transfer this data via the mobile phone network to a central server. From the results gathered there, the current position table is created and made visible on the Internet for everyone. "We finished building the SCCs over the Whitsun weekend" says Ben, DL6RAI. "Parts for 55 SCCs were assembled to make a total along with the existing 15 machines of 70 devices as required for the WRTC" Ben said.

The idea of a current scores table is not new. The scoreboards were already available in 2002 "on-line", but only current on an hourly basis. At that time, the referees sent messages via SMS, which were then published to the Internet. At the time it was extraordinary and a novelty. At WRTC 2014 in

Boston, Bob Raymond, WA1Z and Dave Pascoe, KM3T, developed the SCC concept. When used in 2014, however, it became clear that not all locations could be reliably reached via the local mobile phone network.

Incidentally, a scoreboard for contest participants is not a new idea from the WRTC.

The web site [www.cqcontest.net](http://www.cqcontest.net) offers up-to-the-minute results tables for all major contests. Many contesters are already taking part. Integration takes place via the Internet. "The scoreboard at [cqcontest.net](http://cqcontest.net) is a great facility" says Michael Höding, DL6MHW, responsible for public relations at WRTC 2018. "You can watch the top people driving each other during the contest. This scoreboard is also interesting and useful for normal radio ops as often there are competitors with similar station capabilities to the normal Op. This is fun and transforms the contest into a new kind of direct head-to-head competition. It's like being in the last third of a half-marathon and you want to catch up with the sportsman in the blue shorts ahead of you" comments Michael Höding, DL6MHW.



## No Signs of Interference – all sites are well suited

Published: 30 May 2018

Wittenberg (xv) After the final check all sites for WRTC 2018 are confirmed now. The checks proved that all sites are well suited with respect to topographical and interference problems. This is the result that Ulrich Weiss (DJ2YA) and Frank Neumann (DM5WF) arrived at after carefully inspecting more than 80 possible WRTC 2018 sites in the areas round Muehlberg, Jessen and Jueterbog. Ulrich Weiss stated: "When measuring the angles to the horizon in all directions with a theodolite we didn't

detect a single elevation of more than 1° among the occasional enhancements at the horizon. Furthermore, we paid special attention to make sure that the Fresnel Zones round the antenna locations are plain and free of obstructions. And Frank Neumann added "Five of the intended sites did not meet the criteria, however, it is no problem to replace them from the stock of back-up sites that we inspected as well. Our particular concern were the directions towards North America with its great number of potential DX-contacts". The evaluation team was supported by Andreas Thron (DL8UAT), Wolfgang Tretschock (DL2RSF) and Andreas Winter (DK4WA).



Apart from the evaluation of the topography, all sites were checked for interfering influences by high voltage power lines, wind energy plants or railway lines. With an IC7300 and an active antenna (specially designed by Joerg Logemann, DL2NI, for noise floor measurements) all sites were carefully checked for any kind of interfering noise, for instance from the few power lines in a distance of at least 500m.

"Doing these checks in temperatures of well over 90° Fahrenheit were quite a feat", Ulrich Weiss pointed out and continued, "and occasional bye-passers shook their heads when observing a car with a strange number plate and an unusual contraption mounted on its roof on our off-road exercises. Each site has a distance of at least 1000m to the nearest neighbor and driving to them all took us more than 600km during these 3 days."

These activities show impressively how much space (and effort) is required and what challenge it is for the organizing team to provide a "level playing field" for all competitors. The glacial plains between the towns of Wittenberg, Jessen, Muehlberg and Jueterbog help to set the stage for fair contesting between competitors from all over the world. The great event is just 40 days ahead now.

## Without 1300 broom handles it can't happen!

Published: 31 May 2018

Wittenberg (xv) Almost casually, Robby Pöschk, DM6DX, mentioned in our latest teleconference: "We have the 1300 broom handles and the more than 30 Kilometres of barrier tape along with the more than 65 Dixie portaloos in supplies." That caused some frivolity between the organizers of the WRTC 2018 and some disbelief. Surprised at the 1300 broom handles, the press spokesman asked why so many were needed. "Without air hooks, I can not secure the operators area in the sites," was the answer of the logistics officer Robby Pöschk.



The simple fence is the combination of 20 broom handles each and 500 m of red & white barrier tape to surround the antennas and the station tents at the 65 locations. This avoids anyone tripping over the guy wires, having access to the antennas and tent and possibly causing damage. It still seems unusual though. Who would have thought of broom handles being required for the amateur radio world championship!

The need for toilets is clearly recognizable. The fact that behind the mere ordering of blue lavatories there also lies logistical effort is much easier to explain. The toilets must be set up punctually at the 65 site locations and picked up quickly after the end of the contest.

Robby, DM6DX, talks about WRTC's small and big challenges in logistics: "There are 130 tables, lamps, fans and 198 chairs that are not available at the furniture store around the corner. So we had to order the lamps for the stations directly from the manufacturer. "

Listening to the regularly scheduled teleconferences in the areas of organization, Internet technology and public relations, quickly reveals the immense effort involved behind the scenes for the WRTC. There is the logistical component, with all its facets of acquiring and transferring material such as antennas, masts, generators and station tents. The accommodation and transport of guests, referees and volunteers to finding parking spaces in the Lutherstadt Wittenberg. There are intensive discussions with local authorities in Wittenberg and Jessen. In the organizational teleconferences points are reported, discussed, agreed and arrangements made.

But these aspects are just a few examples that are taken out of the whole context. In the technical area the IT teleconferences move up a level and those without IT knowledge understand nothing. Last of all, how the WRTC is portrayed to the public through words, pictures and films, and which news reports should be released is covered on the agenda and in the discussions of the PR team teleconference.

For every organizational group in the WRTC 2018, the clock is running and the countdown continues unimpeded to the start of the World Championship. It has a motivating effect on the organizers, the "To Do" lists show not only open actions but also many entries marked as "done". "As this continues, I'm sure that the countdown generates a very positive adrenaline rush and more and more excitement for what is coming," said Chris Janßen, DL1MGB, President WRTC 2018 eV, Sure, because it is now only 45 days until the start of the first ever WRTC in Germany.

## Looking for a New Team Leader

Published: 06 June 2018

(Wittenberg, 6 July 2018) as the designated team leader of 'AF' had to refuse his participation due to personal reasons we would like to replace the team 'AF' by a wild card team. So we invite you to send wild card applications for the now open TL position with DL1CW as team mate. The deadline for the wild card application is Saturday, June 9. 2018 at 2359z received at [qualification@wrtc2018.de](mailto:qualification@wrtc2018.de). Please explain, why you are applying as TL. After the deadline, we will choose the new TL as soon as possible.

## WRTC Team at HAM RADIO

Published: 08 June 2018

Friedrichshafen. (xv) Ham Radio, the most important show for radio amateurs in Europe, was the prelude to the final spurt to the Amateur Radio World Championship in Germany for the WRTC organizing team. During the three days of the fair, information was distributed to many interested visitors at the WRTC stand. Visitors were also encouraged to participate, and this effort was successful with additional volunteer helpers joining there. On the stage of the exhibition hall Chris Janßen, DL1MGB, and Michael Höding, DL6MHW, presented in words and pictures the status of the preparation processes in hand for the WRTC. The interest level was consistently high, hardly a chair remained unoccupied. Also encouraging was the interest of the many volunteer helpers who gathered at the WRTC stand to discuss and clarify final questions about the technology in use and general organization. Manfred Wolf DJ5MW, a participant from the 2014 World Championships was available at the WRTC stand to answer all visitors' questions. Concurrently the organizing team used the Hamfest weekend to clarify organizational details. The World Championship for radio amateurs starts in just 35 days!

<https://www.icqpodcast.com/news/2018/6/10/world-radio-team-championship-wrtc-2018>

## All sites will be equal right down to the detailed level.

Published: 12 June 2018

Wittenberg. (xv) At the World Championship, ensuring all competing teams have the same operational conditions is of core importance. This does not only apply to topographical conditions, which have recently been verified in detail. This also applies to the antennas. It's not good enough just to build the same type of antennas and get them "somewhere around" resonance. In order to create the same conditions for all competitor's great importance was placed on the accuracy of the measuring equipment to be used in this area.

At WRTC 2018, the antenna construction teams will all use standardized antenna analyzers provided by RigExpert. RigExpert has produced the antenna analyzer AA-35 Zoom in a "special edition" for the WRTC 2018. The analyzer has more storage than the standard device. This is necessary to allow the comparative measurement of multiple team-built antenna systems. The AA-35 Zoom analyzer was selected because its +13 dBm output power ensures stable measurements. This is the only way we can guarantee during construction that all antenna systems are the same. The Nanuk hard case provides optimal protection of the valuable device even in rough usage areas.



## VA2EW will be the teamleader of the new wildcard team #6

Published: 13 June 2018

Congrats Gilles, VA2EW! He will be the teamleader of the new wildcard team #6. As the designated team leader of 'AF' had to refuse his participation due to personal reasons this team was replaced by a wild card team. Gilles ended after the qualification for WRTC at the 2th place in the area NA#7 which only had one team available. So, we are happy to have this excellent contester in our competition at WRTC2018. DL1CW remained as his team mate.

## With 300kW from Wittenberg via Vienna to North America

Published: 21 June 2018

Wittenberg. (xv) The WRTC is to be covered in two special broadcasts by Radio DARC. The radio show of the German Amateur Radio Club e.V. will broadcast a program in English on Saturday, July 14 from 11.00 to 12.00 UTC using the 49m short-wave band on 6070 kHz. Especially for the many people interested in WRTC from North America, the program will also be broadcast on 13860 kHz at the same time. The 6-hour time difference makes it possible for the show to serve as a "breakfast radio" WRTC News on the East Coast of North America. There is expected to be a high level of interest from North America as not only did a total of 14 teams from North America qualify but also the defending champions Daniel Craig (N6MJ) and Chris Hurlbut (KL9A) are from the USA.

A day later, on Sunday the 15th. the second broadcast will be sent at 9:00 am UTC. In both broadcasts, which can be received all over Europe as well as in North America, will, as well as covering the region and people in the Wittenberg and Jessen areas will also include content from journalists reporting on current WRTC event. What the World Championship is all about and how it works will be presented. Behind the scenes reports will cover the qualifying process, the competitors and their four-year preparation as well as the efforts of all the volunteers in this mammoth project. The contest rules and award programs will be explained. Tips will be given on technology in use to make those DX contacts and the all-important radio propagation report completes the "WRTC-special" program.





The transmitters which can reach 300,000 listeners in many parts of the world, are located in Vienna, Austria. The Radio DARC program regularly airs on Sundays at 9:00 am UTC on 6070 kHz in the 49m band and covers current news from the amateur radio and short-wave sectors, equipment reports, technology tips and interviews along with varied music. Radio DARC is unique in its magazine format worldwide and now is the last remaining long, medium or short-wave broadcast show that is voluntarily produced in Germany by radio amateurs.

## The WRTC 2018 - a family event

Published: 22 June 2018

Wittenberg. (xv) The Amateur Radio World Championship in Germany inspires whole families. An example from Chemnitz shows this: Rita Görner, DG0EQ, and her OM Carsten Görner, DG0JCG, were able to effortlessly inspire their son Tim, a short-wave listener, to get involved with the helper teams. Rita and Carsten Görner have been licensed since 1992 and participate in the Chemnitz S54 radio club regularly on Field Days and other events such as the mountain day activities. The prospect of experiencing the, always very positive, Fieldday atmosphere in the WRTC 2018 AR World Cup was reason enough for the family team to get involved.



As volunteers, Rita and Tim Görner look after competitors. Carsten Görner additionally assumes the coordinating role of the site manager. "In the club we discussed intensively once the announcement of the venue occurred, about how we could help and support. You have to be part of such a world event when it is in your own country. That was very clear to us." notes Carsten. Although the family team was prevented from attending the test days in the Wittenberg - Jessen region last year, they are looking forward to their tasks in July with anticipation and excitement. "It's going to be a great experience and we'll do everything we can to make sure competitors and referees feel comfortable on our site," says Rita. "Getting to know the best testers in the world and being able to look over their shoulders is really great," says a delighted Carsten. Tim Görner, who is still in school exam

stress, will soon be completing a course to gain his license because the HF Bug has already bit him as a short-wave listener, even before the WRTC. Ensuring the best working conditions for the competitors is one of the most important tasks of the whole organization. The WRTC organizers have also focused on offering opportunities for around 370 volunteers, so they can gain through new experiences and by meeting interesting people.

## Cups and T-Shirts

Published: 23 June 2018

Wittenberg. (mhw) In view of the fact that WRTC 2018 will start in just a couple of weeks we are expecting a strong increase of the demand for WRTC-coffee cups and WRTC T-shirts. Looking at our limited manpower, we are concerned about our ability to cope with the expected increase in demand. Much to our relief our GOLD Sponsor WiMo of Germany has kindly offered to put their sophisticated EDP-system and their remarkable capabilities in logistics free of charge at our disposal. It is indeed a pleasure to let the many WRTC friends and supporters know that their possible demand for WRTC-cups and WRTC-shirts of all sizes may now be satisfied in a quick, efficient and reliable way by simply ordering with WiMo ([www.wimo.com](http://www.wimo.com); here you will also find photos)

## Remaining tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies are still available

Published: 23 June 2018

Wittenberg. (Xv) If you want to attend the opening ceremony in three weeks' time on the 12th of July and the award ceremony four days later, you have to hurry while there are still some tickets available. Tickets can be conveniently purchased via the internet at <https://booking.wrtc2018.de>, (this site requires you to register your details to gain access). After logging in click on the green "User account" button to get a list of events that can still be booked. In addition to tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies, sightseeing tours or hotels can also be booked. The system guides customers through the payment process, so there's nothing standing in the way of you joining the big party with the top contesters, old and new friends and the WRTC "family". However, get a move on, as next Tuesday, the 26th of June, ticket sales for the opening and closing ceremonies will close.

## Everything needs to be boxed!

Published: 23 June 2018

Wittenberg. (Xv) The cross-cut saw screams, the cordless drills whirl, wood panels are put together and the correct screws are sought out. There is a busy workshop buzz in the WRTC logistics center. Some time ago, Peter Spies, DB6JG, from Weeze started the work using a CNC machine to cut chipboard into parts for the "WRTC boxes". Last weekend, a group of 20 people met to complete 65 of these transport cases.

The boxes are tailored to the transport vans that will take the equipment out to the 65 locations. "Everything that is needed on the site, including antenna materials arrives packed in the box. Only the mast is transported separately, "reports Andreas" Paul "Paulick, DL5CW. This ensures that nothing gets lost in transit in the vehicles. The mast, antenna, tent and generator accessories are

bulky enough, but small items tend to disappear in voluminous vans, as most amateurs know from their yearly Fieldday events. Based on this experience, it seemed the obvious choice to have suitable containers for the WRTC equipment and so control the "escape tendencies" of small items such as screws, plugs & the like. In addition to this wood workshop, the last antenna work was carried out. Sixty five rotators are now bolted to their base plates and tested that they're working correctly.



The guying sets for the masts are also complete. If twenty men work hard they get hungry - but hunger had no chance thanks to the support from Renate Radwan. Paul, DL5CW, commented: "Renate deserves a lot of praise and a thank-you because it is she, who provided us with first-class food service at all our previous sessions in the logistics center!" Another busy weekend for the logistics team is behind them. While the suitcases are packed by the competition participants, the 65 "WRTC boxes" will soon be ready. In 19 days the first German WRTC will be opened. The travel nerves of the contestants and the anticipation of the volunteers and organizers are increasing by the day.



## Equipped with 70 mobile phones for emergencies

Published: 27 June 2018

Wittenberg. (xv) What are 70 phones needed for, when radio and antennas around the globe are used? "For emergencies and to coordinate in emergency situations, it was absolutely essential to equip the organizational center in Wittenberg with standard, easy-to-use telephones and not smart phones," explains Michael Höding (DL6MHW) from the board of the WRTC 2018 eV "At each location the referee is allocated one of these telephones. This allows him to communicate with the central office if, for example, problems with the competition need to be addressed," continues Michael Höding.



In addition to these communication paths, the radio amateurs have set up yet another backup: Three repeaters in the 70cm band are connected together to form a network, which considerably increases the range of the radio signals. If one of the repeaters is accessed, the two other connected repeaters also transmit the message. Thus, the transmissions can be heard in the entire area between Wittenberg, Jessen, Jüterbog and Mühlberg / Elbe. This facilitates organizational processes and can be a valuable fall-back in emergencies.

The installation of the 70 basic phones also creates considerable work in this part of the overall organization. "Every phone has to be charged, the SIM card installed, and it activated. In addition, we have set up special telephone numbers for the equipment, such as the number of the WRTC hotline or the SMS server," explains Ben Büttner (DL6RAI), who performed this complex work with Luise Ostheimer (DL2MLU) last weekend. All phones were tested with their prepaid SIM cards and everything worked straight away.

The interim scores of the competition teams are transmitted via a special computer to the scoreboard server in Wittenberg every minute to be displayed there on a large display. However, should this connection fail, the referee can send by SMS, the current score to Wittenberg and this will keep the scoreboard up to date, not on at minute intervals but at least on a regularly basis.

It is just 15 days until the amateur radio world championship starts for the first time in Germany. The last World Cup took place in 2014 in Boston / USA.

## Mayor Hannelore Brendel supports the WRTC

Published: 30 June 2018

Mühlberg / Elbe. (xv) With respect to our world championship, the World Radiosport Team Championship -short WRTC-, organizers require that the communities in which the 65 competition stations are to be set up, be fully informed. "In addition to general information, what the World Championship in amateur radio is all about, discussion of regulatory authority aspects is also required," said Frank Neumann (DM5WF), who travelled to Mühlberg / Elbe, to visit the local government office to check the status of the planned locations and to report on progress. Mühlberg's mayor Hannelore Brendel did not miss the chance to wish the World Championship good luck.

She'll be keeping her fingers crossed for all the teams and maybe the winning team will be one of those transmitting from a site in the Mühlberg on the Elbe area? Frank Neumann has been travelling a lot in the past days and weeks to inform the authorities about the amateur radio world championship. He has also completed all the necessary arrangements with the owners of the sites on which the radio stations will be built for the competition weekend. The 24-hour competition for the world's best "contest team" starts on the 14th of July at 14.00. More than 300 volunteers are

deployed to build 65 remote stations. Competition teams from 31 nations are due to arrive. Two radio amateurs form each of the competition teams at the radio station sites. The total of 126 competitors had to qualify between 2014 and 2018 taking part in 32 competitions for the World Championship. Among them are three German teams. For the first time, the World Championship will take place in Germany. In 2014, the last WRTC was in Boston / USA. The organization is in full swing - just 12 days to the opening of the World Championships in Wittenberg.



## Interview with Xenia Berger from New Zealand and Mathias Acevedo from Chile

Published: 30 June 2018

While preparing for the WRTC2018 we thought, that it would be a good idea to talk with younger participants about ham radio and about the WRTC in Germany. Today we focus on Xenia Berger, ZL4YL and Mathias Acevedo, CE2LR.

First of all, many thanks to both of you, for finding some time for the Interview. We all know, that you have lots of things to do.



Now our questions:

### **1. How did you discover Ham Radio?**

Xenia: My dad introduced me to it, he himself having discovered the hobby when he was about 16. He wanted all of his family to have a license as well and now we all do! (except for our cat). Getting a radio license was just an expected part of growing up in our family.

Mathias: Well this is in the year 2010, when I belonged to a youth brigade of firefighters in the community of La Calera, in which I was familiar with the VHF equipment that we used. After a while I retired but I was still with my VHF team and one day I visited a radio ham who programmed us the teams radios in the fire company and I spoke at a radio exhibition in the center of the city that I attended. There I found the members of the radio club team (CE2RCF) that had some antennas and were transmitting throughout the country and some neighboring countries. What caught my attention immediately, so I enrolled in the club to be a member and get my radio ham license. After several activities with the club I knew the following areas of the hobby, dx, contests, etc.

### **2. What fascinated you about Ham Radio and what do you like most in Ham Radio?**

Xenia: I read a lot and whenever I read apocalypse-like books they always tried to find ham radio operators to communicate. It was always the hams who played a critical part in the survival of the protagonist. As well as in the 1931 Napier earthquake, it was radio amateurs who contacted the Victoria (a navy ship) to come and help, which meant so many more people survived. I just like the fact that Ham radio isn't just a hobby, it's a critical part of emergency operations.

Mathias: Well after seeing what the DX was, my father got me a 10M tower on which I installed a 5m yagi for 28Mhz, with which I contacted everyone and an old TS-440S. After a while I met Roberto (CE3CT) who very kindly invited me to come one day to know his station. When it came to me - that was a dream, you will see giant towers with monobanders, last generation amplifiers, etc. At the same time, he invited me to my first ARRL 10M (2013) contest, which was my first time in a contest with a high-end team - CE3FZ, CE3CT and CE2MVF. CE3FZ my first moments seeing in action an OP of CW. At that time I began to be interested in trying to learn CW, in 2014 achieving this important goal in my career as a dx-ist and contester, to understand the morse code. After Roberto joined the group of contestants of CE3CT I know Dale VE7SV who is a HAM known worldwide, and with the unconditional support of CE3CT, VE7SV, CE2ML, CE3OP and some radio amateurs of the country and got the successes that I have.

### **3. What is your main emphasis in Ham Radio?**

Xenia: My main interest in ham radio is definitely contesting, as well as DXing although not as much. Rag chewing has never been my favourite thing (in radio or real life). I enjoy the competition aspect of it, as well as setting NZ or sometimes even Oceania records, hence I'm thoroughly looking forward to the WRTC.

Mathias: Well what I focus more on in the hobby, is to improve my skills as a contest operator every day and try and motivate more hams to be part of the contests and dxes

#### **4. How was the "qualification-marathon" and have there been any interesting experiences along the way?**

Xenia: The qualification marathon didn't affect me that much, only in the way that I spent less time on the radio for the big contests as of course dad had to compete in them in order to qualify. The problem was that because of the time difference, most of the contests don't end until 1pm Monday, which meant dad had to continuously take days off, which therefore reduced our holiday time in the year.

Mathias: Well this starts in 2016 when I already know CW and seeing good qualities as OP, Roberto tells me that I can use his station as an OP monkey, which leads me to a climb within the top 5 scores of the SA 2 cube. Always trying to reach the first place, something difficult since the only real competition was 2016 and 2017, and being ranked No. 3 in the classification of SA 2 in 2017. I had the opportunity to attend Dayton hamvention, make many friends. Also it was an explosion of experiences, knowledge, making friends, visiting some stations like K9CT, WB9Z and the luck of being able to operate from NR4M in the CQWPXCW that year. I learnt more about the WRTC that was approaching, KOMD who motivated me as a youth team, which interested me a lot. After a few months the applications for the youth team were opened, I asked Bryant KG5HVO who I had met in Dayton if he wanted to be my partner for this event if we classified. When on October 1 in my email I see a message from the organization of WRTC 2018, in the qualify I see that we are the # 1 ranked youth team! The happiness was remarkable of my teacher and mine that we would be part of one of the most important events of the ham radios worldwide.

#### **5. How do you prepare yourself for the WRTC technically, physically and mentally?**

Xenia: Last year I did a lot of the big contests as a single op to get used to being on the radio for long periods of time. Because of bad conditions, we don't really get many pileups so we train using a programme called morse runner.

Mathias: Well I have been preparing every day using morserunner, participating in all the contests that I have, studying some records of past IARU 2017, to know the propagation schedules, bands, etc. I also made a trip to the USA to prepare all our staff for the contest and the exercise with my partner in the CQWPX CW 2017 using a set-up similar to the one to be used in Germany.

#### **6. What are your expectations and goals for the WRTC and what are you looking forward to?**

Xenia: My hope is that we don't come last ;) and that we don't get unlucky with any equipment failure or otherwise. I just hope we have a good time – that we don't forget to actually enjoy the competition! I'm looking forward to meeting all those amazing contesters, many of whom I've worked on the bands.

Mathias: Good as expectations, gain experience, knowledge of the best operators, everything that helps me improve my OP skills, also be able to share with people, as well as yourself that we share in this beautiful hobby.

## 7. When may we welcome you to Wittenberg?

Xenia: Wednesday the 11th of July

Mathias: Tuesday the 10th of July

We are very grateful for you taking the time to answer our questions. To you both and to your teams of course, good luck in the WRTC 2018! We'll see you soon!

## "Our Jessener" amateur radio pioneers "help us with their expertise"

Published: 04 July 2018

Oskar Radwan (DL3OF) and Andreas Winter (DK4WA) are highly regarded in Jessen

The officials of the municipalities of the area where the WRTC is to take place are important contacts for the organizers. We spoke with Daniel Lehmann, Deputy Mayor of Jessen about the World Championships.



**"Mr. Lehmann, over the second weekend of July, many thousands of people are straining their ears: the Amateur Radio world championship will begin here in Jessen and in the region around Jessen. Sixty three teams from thirty one nations are taking part. Radio amateurs' antennas are being targeted worldwide towards this region and many thousands of radio contacts are expected to take place. Well over 300 helpers organize this mammoth project on a voluntary basis.**

**What's your opinion of how this very special World Championship in Jessen is perceived?**

Daniel Lehmann: First of all, I am especially happy for our city, that such an event will take place here and that Jessen (Elster) can be the host. Top radio operators from all over the world will be here to pursue their passion.

A big thank you goes to the many volunteers. Without their commitment such an event would not be possible.

The current perception for the event is reserved. With only a few local people interested, however Jessen enjoys an international reputation with its radio stations for those in the know. After the World Championship and the associated media coverage this will certainly change.



I wish the event itself a smooth execution with exciting and fair competition. I wish all participants good luck. The helpers and their accompanying families, friends and fans should have fun at the World Championship and around our region.

**What did you think personally when the concerns of the radio amateurs were presented to you?**

Daniel Lehmann: I was excited about this event with its German and worldwide significance. After the track dog world championship in 2004 it's good to have such a high-ranking event take place in our region again. Great!

**Have you had any contact with amateur radio previously, either privately or in a professional context, for example in civil defence roles?**

Daniel Lehmann: Yes, as a child, with so-called walkie talkies. If I can link such things with amateur radio, but using radios to connect in any case.

Fortunately, we did not have to resort to emergency radio during the flood disasters from the Elbe and Schwarzer Elster rivers. I know however that during other major disasters, amateur radio was called in to help. When this happens we know we can rely upon the skills and infrastructure provided by the amateur radio operators.

As part of my job, I have to deal with radio - naturally. In my function as director of the municipal public order office, I am familiar with the topic "radio", as 905 comrades in our volunteer fire departments, including 583 in active service, have to communicate and use them in case of emergency. The city of Jessen (Elster) being responsible for fire protection has to procure and maintain the necessary infrastructure for this purpose.

We have also been part of the large-scale project to switch from analogue to digital radio communications for our 27 active municipal local aid services.

One of the "Amateur Radio Pioneers" from the Jessen area - Mr. Oskar Radwan - often advised and supported us with his expertise.

**Yes, Oskar Radwan (DL3OF) and his wife Renate, are also very involved in the World Championship and both help the entire organizing team in many ways. Back to the World Championship: The World Championship takes place for the first time in Germany. Jessen is at the center of the activities. What do you think?**

Daniel Lehmann: Along with others Andreas Winter from the DARC Jessen-Herzberg club, was involved in bringing the World Championship to Germany for the first time. That the championship is now to be held in the Jessen area, I am pleased all the more. The region will present itself from its best side for the event. Of course, it should not go unmentioned that Jessen is a stronghold of radio sport and the members of the local radio club have won the German Short wave Cup several times.

**It's nice to hear that Andreas Winter (DK4WA), is in constant contact with you. While Andreas Winter also plays as site manager a major role in the organization team of the World Championship this is to be expected. How do you perceive the organizational preparations for the World Championship?**

Daniel Lehmann: Absolutely smooth, dedicated people with a very professional manner. All previous contacts were consistently positive and friendly.

**All of the farms used for radio stations and their antennas have given space at no cost. What do you think about that?**

Daniel Lehmann: For me, this is another example of the great hospitality that exists in our region. When it comes down to it one simply helps each other in an uncomplicated way. The "Jesseener" are simply a helpful people.

Thank you very much, Mr. Lehmann, for taking the time to give this interview. It is nice to be your guest! "

## Ham Widow's Ball – presented by The YASME foundation

Published: 05 July 2018

The WRTC is not only a radio sport event. It is also a large gathering of Radio Amateurs. Many competitors are accompanied by their partners and family members. To give them a good start to the five days of the WRTC Bill Vinci introduced the Ham Widow's Ball in 2014.

As a warm welcome and a large thank you to all the wives, husbands and children who have to endure our hobby, WRTC 2018 will also stage the Ham Widow's Ball on Wednesday July 11th 2018. Bill Vinci will again guide attendees through a wonderful evening exclusively presented for the Spouses who are non-hams. The Ball will take place in the Lutherhaus, a historic building, 400 metres walk away from the HQ-hotel, this is where Martin Luther and his family lived in the 16th century.

The Ball will start at 8 pm and run through to 10 pm.



Picture: The flower arrangement was especially designed for the ham widow's ball by a ham widow - Margit, the XYL by DJ7TO

## David Siddal K3ZJ: A special member of the WRTC 2018 Media Team

Published: 06 July 2018

Dave Siddal, K3ZJ, will support WRTC doing a very special task in the media team. He is a WRTC veteran, managing a cluster of sites during the last WRTC 2014 in Boston. He also supported WRTC 2018 as an ambassador for USA and wrote many articles which were published in the CQ magazine, where he is the columnist of the contest department. WRTC 2018 asked Dave to support us by writing "The Book about WRTC 2018 in Germany".



We are proud to announce that he has agreed to do so. A book is always a long remaining artifact of an event which will remain when all tweets or webpages are lost. We hope the Book from David will help to ensure the future of the WRTC idea and principals over the next decades. Through photos and stories, the spirit of friendship, sport and volunteering in the WRTC event will be presented to the world. Dave will contact participants in Jessen/Wittenberg as well as contributors from all over the world. Please give Dave your full support if he asks you questions.

## Antennas at Luther Hotel

Published: 07 July 2018

Wittenberg. (xv) It is now also apparent from the outside that the Luther Hotel has become the hotspot for radio sport - the World Radiosport Team Championship WRTC while over the last couple of days, Ulf Ehrlich (DL5AXX) and Michael Höding (DL6MHW) have mounted the first antennas on the roof of the hotel. Initially, a Butternut HF6V and a FD4 have been installed. This allows the HQ station to be operational on all contest bands. The comparatively simple antennas will allow numerous WRTC contacts because of the short distance to the competitors sites.



The participants also have an opportunity to complete their last training sessions before the competition. The station also creates a good way to test the current propagation conditions. Furthermore, the station at the Luther Hotel allows the organizers to listen-in during the IARU contest at the weekend. This will indicate how the competition is running and how the pile-up's are going. Of course, the organizers and helpers left behind at the hotel will also have the opportunity to participate in the contest that starts on Saturday at 2 pm and to give points to the competitors, because every contact counts.

The hotel hosts most of the participants and referees during the WRTC week. From here, the event is controlled and organized. The organizing team headed by the President of WRTC 2018 e.V., Christian Janßen (DL1MGB) and his Second in Command, Michael Höding (DL6MHW), are in constant contact with the site managers, the referees and the logistics center. "For this purpose, an extensive communication structure is being set up at the moment, which has been prepared and tested in recent months. This includes setting up the score board, which is important for the competitors," explains Chris Janßen. "At the hotel, it is displayed on monitors and updated every minute on the internet showing who is in the lead during the competition." "Whether the teams in the lead at the end also win the contest will only be known after the detailed evaluation of all logs by the competition judges," adds Michael Höding. The judging team, which is also based in the headquarters hotel, has its hands full after 2pm on Sunday. Who the actual winning team is, will only be clear on Monday (16 July). The award ceremony takes place on Monday evening. After that the first ever World Radio Championship in Germany ends and from the headquarters out the large cleaning and packing up work starts.

## WRTC 2018 Headquarters in Wittenberg

Published: 08 July 2018

A look into the WRTC organisation office in the Luther Hotel indicates the size of the WRTC project. Around the long table sit the organisers and work from the ToDo lists. Plans are printed and materials sorted.



Direct communication in the central office provides quick solutions to many problems. The equipment there includes a multifunction printer, computer for weather observation, our own computer network and well-filled whiteboards which are used intensively.



Ulf DL5AXX turns on all 65 clocks and waits for the RF synchronisation with the time standards transmitter in Frankfurt to take place.



A telephone hotline with three phones is ready to answer requests from the helpers which can be fed into a ticket system directly. From Tuesday, the activity will increase again. Those working in the control centre, work under a shift system. In two daily meetings, the subject area managers present their reports, so that the organisation has the best chance of making the WRTC a success.

## Radio amateurs provide technical progress and promote global understanding

Published: 08 July 2018

A few days before the start of the amateur radio world championship, we had the opportunity to interview the mayor of Wittenberg, Jochen Kirchner.



Foto: Marko Schoeneberg

**Wittenberg will become in the next few days, the centre of organization for the amateur radio world championship and the location for especially important events such as the opening and award ceremonies. Many guests will get to know the "Lutherstadt" whether they are from Germany or abroad. What can you say about how this very special World Championship is perceived by the Wittenberg locals?**

After the Reformation anniversary, this has become a unique year for our "Lutherstadt" leaving many memories. As the "smallest city in the world" Wittenberg see no end to its role of welcoming the world and providing a colourful place for rhetoric. A time of dialogue that now experiences a seamless continuation into the world radio championship. With the Wittenberg University of Leucorea and its famous sons, the city has an impressive academic legacy. Wilhelm Weber, born in our city and the inventor of electric telegraphy, is the inspiration for today's radio sport. There can be no better connection! That's why I am very happy that this major international event is taking place in Lutherstadt Wittenberg. Our Wittenberg locals are not only excellent hosts, but also very active and technically minded.

**What did you personally think when the concerns of the radio amateurs were presented to you?**

Professionalism. It demonstrates that volunteering knows no boundaries. To understand oneself, words are not always needed rather a connection. As radio operators you are not only pioneers of progress, but also pioneers of unlimited global communications. In a time of fake news, hostility and abusive vocabulary, the short-wave community makes a decisive contribution to international friendship. It's great that this unique sport fights against radio silence and brings people closer together.

**Did you already have points of contact to amateur radio privately or in your official business roles e.g. in civil defence?**

Major events do not only require the support of many people. Equally important is that all parties communicate in the same way. With the use of digital radio by all of the security teams present for the Reformation anniversary, this technology proved its worth. We are happy that the use of digital radio ensured smooth processes and contributed to the safety of all visitors.

**For the first time this World Championship takes place in Germany. Wittenberg is the organizational centre of the event. How do you feel about that?**

World Championships inspire the whole family. This is not only testified to by the current World Soccer Cup. Parents and their children have formed joint teams for the Radio World-Cup. A great community effort! In addition to the technical pioneering spirit, the excellent environment, both from topographical and high-frequency propagation viewpoint, Lutherstadt Wittenberg provides an ideal venue for the World Championship. No ground elevations are above 1 ° and with no interference from power lines or wind turbines optimum competition conditions are guaranteed. Surrounded by the Middle Elbe biosphere park lands and the Fläming area, the Lutherstadt also offers the best possibilities for a travel break.

**How do you perceive the organizational preparations for the World Championship?**

From the beginning it was important to respond to fears, reservations and questions with clear statements. A learning experience that applies to events and to the future design of Lutherstadt as a whole. A good concept comes to life only with cooperation and transparency. Already in 2015, the local organizers informed us about their large project. In close co-operation several meetings were held to examine the grounds needed for the competition sites. From the beginning, the preparations for the World Championship have been characterised by a reliable and trustful cooperation. Experienced organizers from all over Germany have ensured that a professional and at the same time unique, world championship will take place in our region. I wish the organizing team good luck with the final preparations!

**Many farmers have provided space free for the radio stations and their antennas. How do you rate that?**

It is an impressive situation and makes me very happy. At the same time, it is proven that great things can develop through the networking of mainstream and voluntary organizations. It is a benefit for our Lutherstadt and the whole region.

## TV Team visit the HQ

Published: 10 July 2018

A team of the TV Station MDR visited WRTC on Monday afternoon to prepare a report about the upcoming radio sport championship. Beatrix Heykeroth - reporter at MDR - and her team interviewed Ralf Theunert, DK1DSA. They filmed Ralf operating the station DA0WRTC in the HQ Hotel.

Finally, they took a shot on video of the already busy operation central. The report will be broadcasted on Thursday evening, 19:00, by MDR-Sachsen-Anhalt.



## WRTC Vans on Tour

Published: 10 July 2018

Robby (DM6DX) today took over 16 vans from the car rental SIXT. After a thorough briefing and safety instructions, the drivers drove to the WRTC logistics center. There, antennas, masts and other equipment were loaded. Tomorrow the construction phase of the 65 sites begins.



## WRTC-"Tagesschau"

Published: 10 July 2018

The first daily report in moving pictures is available. Steffen (DM6WAN) and his team reported on the cultural and historical highlights of Wittenberg. Afterwards, the WRTC was the focus of the reports: The briefings of the site managers, the antenna engineers and the takeover of the transport vehicles were the topics of the WRTC 2018.



## Interview with Wittenberg Mayor - Jochen Kirchner

Published: 11 July 2018

Wittenberg was at the centre of European and worldwide interest in the "Luther Year" in 2017. A year later, the Radio Amateurs' World Championship in radio sports has again generated a lot of interest in Wittenberg and the Saxony-Anhalt region. Three days before the start of the competition, we had the opportunity to talk with the mayor of Wittenberg, Jochen Kirchner.



Jochen Kirchner was also kind enough to make a short statement about the WRTC on camera. A detailed interview with Jochen Kirchner on the World Championship can be found in the press release available at <http://www.wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/presse-2/pressemitteilungen-2>

## Hearty welcome in the Wittenberg Luther Hotel

Published: 11 July 2018

Yesterday and today the participants began arriving. About fifty Ops used the option to arrive early, to recover from travel stress and to spend an extra day in the Lutherstadt Wittenberg. Often the greetings are loud and the joy at seeing friends again huge. Some participants know each other from Boston during the last World Championship and haven't seen each other in the meantime. Of course this is an opportunity to meet friends from the whole Ham radio community.

The tension is electric. After all, participants spent over two years in many contests fighting for top results in order to be able to participate in the final round of the WRTC 2018. A scrutinizing look at the equipment they brought with them to make sure that everything has weathered the journey well.

## "Happy landing in Berlin"

Published: 11 July 2018

Today is the main arrival day for the radiosport world championship. Numerous radio operators and referees landed at the Berlin-Tegel airport. Already while in the transit area, there were many warm welcomes taking place. There was also excitement in the air. Has all the luggage arrived and is it undamaged? Are all the customs papers in order? After clearing customs, the contesters were greeted by DX legends Rolf DL7VEE, Wolf DL7HU and Gerd, DL7VOG. Then into the shuttle buses and off in the direction of Wittenberg. The mood was a mixture of anticipation and excitement.



## In Uebigau everything is safe - and the site is ready.

Published: 11 July 2018

Wednesday has seen antenna installation actions at the sites. The objective of the 16 antenna teams was for each team to set up the antenna systems at 2 sites. The antenna teams were met by the site teams who were already there assembling the tent and installing the needed contents as well as setting up the generator. With the help of detailed manuals, the teams were able to get down to business. Minor problems were resolved locally. Some problems were passed to the operations center in the HQ-Hotel and a coordinated solution found.



The police were also interested in what was going on. The officers in their patrol car saw the work in progress, stopped and asked for the site manager. After a full explanation, they were happy and wished the installation team good luck and the competitors lots of points. In the meantime we have half of the WRTC sites ready for use.

## Looking after the partners

Published: 12 July 2018

The WRTC is not just an amateur radio competition, it is also a meeting of amateurs with many participants accompanied by partners or families. To provide a good welcome to the five-day event, Bill Vinci started the Ham Widows Ball at the WRTC in Boston in 2014 - an exclusive event for the sometimes neglected partners. In the historic Luther House, 78 wives, husbands and children met. Bill Vinci acted as host for this unique event. The Californian painter quickly melted the ice. Without any problems, he was able to overcome language and cultural barriers and make sure that everyone understood each other well. You did not have to understand perfect English to have fun on this evening. Friendships were developed or revived. A good start for the WRTC and for the very important “contest-life balance”.



## Contestants training

Published: 12 July 2018

The WRTC is a serious event. On Thursday morning, participants and referees for the radio sports world championship had to get up early for a very important meeting at 8 am! During the briefing by the competition management all rule principles were again explained, and all questions answered. Moderator Uwe, DL8OBF, was supported by the Judging Committee. Led by Ulf, DL5AXX, the Judging Committee contains experienced contest experts from four continents. Randy, K5ZD, has a lot of experience as organizer of WRTC 2014, Nodir, EY8MM was a member of the Judging committee in 2014 and Bernd, VK2IA, was referee in 2014 and multiple times a WRTC participant. Dietmar, DL3DXX, organizes the log check team and has developed special evaluation software.



Competitors and referees asked for a lot of detail. Especially as regards correct log keeping and rating of QSOs, such as what to do when the QSO partner sent the wrong zone. The guidelines given at the meeting are a building block for fair competition, which must indeed be reflected during contest operation and not only through subsequent regulatory discussions.

In another meeting there was a detailed briefing for the referees. Here, among other things, the function of the power checking meter was described, and the configuration of the score collection computer explained.

## WRTC opening event

Published: 12 July 2018

Wittenberg's Mayor, Jochen Kirchner, has tonight formally opened WRTC 2018, the World Radio Team Championship 2018. It is the first time that WRTC takes place in Germany. With the endorsement of Martin Luther, Jochen Kirchner welcomed all participants and visitors and wished them good luck and many radio contacts.



One of the corner stones of WRTC are the special call signs that were revealed during a presentation on the 100 year history of amateur radio in Germany by Uli Müller, DK4VW. The call signs from the Y8 call sign block will be assigned to 63 teams and will sure help to generate massive pile ups on the bands.



The event was framed by a parade of participants from 40 nations and an entertaining report by John Dorr, K1AR, the first team champion of a WRTC event in 1990 in Seattle. All participants, visitors and supporters alike are looking forward to an eventful and competitive event.



## Drawing of the Y8xx call signs and site locations

Published: 13 July 2018

Friday morning had an exciting and important event in the program. Although all locations are equivalent, the draw of locations and callsigns is considered to be the fairest method of allocating the sites. A glass bowl containing 63 plastic orbs containing the call signs of the teams and the assigned referee along with sealed envelopes with the Y8xx call sign inside laid on the table.



The first team was Manfred, DJ5MW and Stefan, DL1IAO, who will transmit from the location near Mühlberg, the furthest away from the HQ. Also Stephane, F4DXW and Sebastian, F8CMF could start early with the help of the volunteers. Two and a half hours later Fred, K9VV and John, VE3EJ received the nearest location, almost directly on the Elbe.

The sealed envelopes will be held by the referees and will only be opened at 11.45 UTC tomorrow, 15 minutes before the competition starts.

## Tent sponsored - competitors happy.

Published: 13 July 2018

Gedas LY9A and Mindis LY4L are very pleased with the visit of their tent sponsor Klaus Kuhlemeier, DJ4PT.

Klaus had sponsored the station tent in memory of Heinrich Lumpe, DJ6JC (sk). Heinrich, DJ6JC always had an open ear for newcomers and supported many radio amateurs with his knowledge and his skills. This is remembered as much as his steel lattice masts, produced in his company Willer & Billerbeck (WiBi) for many years. More at <http://www.wrtc2018.de/index.php/foerderer/tent-sponsors-de?val=dj6dc>



All 63 tents of the competition teams have been sponsored.

Since lunchtime, the team from Lithuania has been busy installing their radios and other station equipment at their site in the Annaberg area. "We've checked some lists x times and compared them to the material we're installing and hope we have not forgotten anything," Mindis said yesterday

evening, while at the WRTC opening event. "Although it was not a nightmare, the WRTC and the worry of forgetting something in Lithuania caused many hours of late night work," he added. "Tomorrow at 12.00 UTC the contest starts. But only if it turns out nothing was left in Lithuania," smiles Gedas, LY9A "We are happy to be with our friends and families here in Wittenberg," Gedas continued.

## Working the Y8xx Call signs and Collecting activity awards

Published: 13 July 2018

It starts Tomorrow! This is going to be GREAT.

The call signs from the Y8 call sign block will be assigned to 63 teams and will sure help to generate massive pile ups on the bands on 10 m to 80 m. You can work the Y8xx in CW as well in SSB.

Martin, DL4NAC, has kindly written out some guidance notes of how to best work the stations.

Important information for chasing the WRTC stations:

- WRTC stations will work only operate on the 80 to 10m contest bands using CW and SSB
- WRTC stations should be spotted by callers in the DX clusters
- Please treat all WRTC stations the same don't favorize one over another
- Do not be surprised that everyone speaks English only and won't give their own call sign out (that's in the rules).
- Make sure that the QSO is as short as possible.
- Keep trying difficult band, as the WRTC stations will only be running 100 W and will not be loud.
- Try looking for the stations early on Sunday morning on 80 and 40m as it's likely the station will only be the higher bands on Saturday.
- Your help can be rewarded - there are diplomas and medals to apply for.

The award series includes 5 certificates,

- WAWRTC - Worked All WRTC Stations
- WRTC Sprint - contact all stations in the shortest time
- WRTC Most QSOs - who makes the largest number of contacts with the WRTC stations
- Assistant Judge - for those submitting check logs
- Long Distance Challenge - for those with contacts from the furthest distance sum

## Today on the Short Waves

Published: 14 July 2018

Breakfast radio with 300kW plus 20dB gain towards North America

The WRTC is started and today RADIO DARC will transmit a special broadcast. The broadcast will be in English from 11:00 to 12:00 UTC (13:00 to 14:00 CEST) in the 49 m band at 6070 kHz and at the same time in the 22m band at 13 860 kHz.

The six-hour time difference makes it possible for RADIO DARC program to serve up-to-date World Championship news to North America's radio amateurs as a "breakfast radio" show. In order to reach

North America a 300 kW transmitter and a 20 dB gain directional antenna will be used from the broadcasting center near Vienna. The contest starts today at 12.00 UTC.

## Happy Contesters - Happy Volunteers - the sun is shining!

Published: 14 July 2018

The mood ahead of the start of the WRTC in Wittenberg is great. The Contesters are up-beat and happy about their beautiful sites and super-volunteers they met on Friday.

The volunteers are happy to be very close to the action. The sun is shining for them as well.

There is also anticipation in the air. After all the WRTC is product of nearly four years of work. Whether winner, top ten or in the upper half - each of the participants is a winner, because getting through the qualification was tough enough.

A lot of people will follow the "race" via the online scoreboard a lot will race to be on the right bands to be part of the show. Let's rock the bands!

## cq contest cq contest ... Bands are full - mood very good

Published: 14 July 2018

The contest has been running for some hours now and the competitors are wrestling each other for points. The bands are "very busy" and finding a free frequency is exhausting. The fight for the top place is exciting, also for the spectators, they watch the score of the teams changes every minute on the score board. The table with the current score (scoreboard) can also be found on the Internet at [www.WRTC2018.de](http://www.WRTC2018.de).



We visited some of the teams about an hour before the start of the contest and the atmosphere was quite outstanding despite the understandable tension of the Contesters. The talented volunteers had installed the station infrastructure in advance. "Some drops of sweat flowed, but it was worth it, because we have a lot of fun - despite the strenuous work," said one of the helpers rather casually. "We have great volunteers, we've found a perfect site," remarks Mindis, LY4L.

## WRTC 2018 - Update (2)

Published: 15 July 2018

WRTC 2018 - the night is over. It was cool and starry. The OPs in the tents were busy. Now the sun is rising. The best teams have almost 4000 QSOs in the log. At the top are consistently LY9A / LY4L - with some distance followed by DJ5MW / DL1IAO. The WRTC 2018 is still running for 8 hours. Call all Y8 stations!



## Excitement right up to the end

Published: 15 July 2018

There are still a few hours left to push the current leading team from Lithuania, who has had the lead for many hours, sitting in first place on the scoreboard. Gedas Lucinskas, LY9A, and Mindis Jukna, LY4L, led the way in the first few hours of the contest, while the German team of Manfred Wolf, DJ5MW and Stefan von Baltz, DL1IAO, have been steadily progressing up from their initial position, midfield. Now, in the morning, both teams are separated by around 300,000 points from each other; this sounds a lot at first. But that can change. Will the equipment continue working? Will the concentration and fitness of the competitors be enough? The night was tiring with thousands of contacts and no team can afford to take a break if they are to have a chance of the World Championship title. It will remain exciting right up until the last minute. The excitement of the competitors is at least as high as that from the spectators watching the Scoreboard. But what distinguishes viewers from contesters is that the spectators can see the current position of all of the stations, the contest teams do not know, as they are not allowed a connection to the Internet. So the



spectators watching the scoreboard up until the end of the contest know who the likely winner may be - so more than the contesters themselves. Whether, however, the places on the scoreboard become official can only happen after full log checking has taken place. This stage can only begin when the USB sticks with the data from the logging computers handed over by the referees in the HQ organization center. The log checkers are ready and waiting to get started. The winner will be announced tomorrow (Monday) evening.



The end of the competition - there is silence on the bands - the log checkers have the floor.

Published: 15 July 2018

Did the team from Lithuania really win it? With more than 5.9 million points Gedas, LY9A, and Mindis, LY4L, are clearly ahead of the German team of Manfred, DJ5MW, and Stefan, DL1IAO. The Germans managed 5.3 million points. Whether the scores stay as they are is not yet certain, first all logs need to be checked. The work of the Log Checkers now starts. The memory keys with the contact logs on them are supplied to the log checking team. With the phrase "CQ contest, Y81N, CQ Test de Y81N" the Lithuanian team managed 5212 radio contacts. By the contest end, the German team achieved 4874 contacts.



Which teams get the lower places is open as the point differences between third to sixth places are very small. At the moment, the 2014 gold medalists from the USA are in third place, followed by teams from Slovenia, The Ukraine and Bulgaria. Whoever occupies the places in the end and if there is a change to the positions of the leading teams remains to be seen.

How many points remain after evaluation for each team is now in the hands of the checkers who will check everything very precisely.

Those who followed the scoreboard realized how quickly the positions of the teams changed.

What was interesting and exciting for the spectators was hidden from the competition teams, because in the rules of the competition accepted by the stations bans external access through smartphone, internet and more. Even the referee has only a simple telephone for use in emergencies or for questions to the organizers and judges. Therefore, the surprise was set for the competition end after 2:00 pm: Where did we finish up and where our competitors? Exhaustion and relief are written equally on the team's faces. After 24 hours of maximum concentration on the radio, relaxation and recovery are now essential. But not every team will succeed relaxing immediately as the adrenalin level is only gradually decreasing. Not everyone will be able to sleep straight away.

It is probably a mixture of feelings of happiness, the joy of what has been achieved and finally "having it over with", which is prevalent among all 63 teams and equally important, the 63 referees.

## Reserved happiness among the Lithuanians

Published: 15 July 2018

### Observations at site ABG-3

Sunday, 2:00 pm, contest end. Deep breathes from the three in the tent at Site ABG-3. 24 hours work is behind them. Referee Michael Fulcher, KC7V, comes out of the tent, talks to us briefly and asks that we from the media team be patient. "Of course - we will comply," I reply in broken English before he closes the tent door with the zipper again. Meanwhile, more and more "volunteers" and "organizers" gather in the dry, dusty field about 6 km south east of Jessen. Several photographers have already set up in front of the tent entrance to watch the moment when the Y81N operators leaves the tent after more than 24 hours. Quiet, factual-sounding scraps of conversation come out of the tent. Some impatience is spreading. "Now stop," one of the bystanders thinks out loud and winks. Then the "cheerleader team" of Lithuanians arrives in a VW Camper and several cars. Their funny T-shirts stand out and their happiness is obvious. Everyone waits and then a familiar sound: the zipper opens and Gedas, LY9A, hurries to the porta-a-loo. "I have waited a long time," he murmurs smiling at each of us waiting for the crucial photo of the two operators. He looks puzzled but gets sympathetic looks from those he passes in his sweaty clothes. It is 32° C and undoubtedly even hotter in the tent. It takes a few more minutes and shortly after Gedas goes back into the tent, the referee and the contest crew seem to complete the formalities.



As the three appear in front of the tent, the clack-clack of cameras shutters start along with applause from the surrounding fans, volunteers and organizers. Mindis' children run towards their beloved daddy and in a heartfelt embrace the family is reunited including XYL Lina after 24 hours. All of a

sudden you can feel a warm, loving camaraderie of all of the Lithuanians and their German friends. They are all happy about what has been achieved because it is something to be proud of. It doesn't get better than this. It is the hour of the new world champions. But Gedas and Mindis do not want to acknowledge it at first. For one point, they are very modest people and they also know that before the logs are verified, nothing is official. Experience has taught them that things can change before the award ceremony. What they do not know at this point is that their lead is probably unassailable by the second-placed German team. 5212 contacts and over 5.9 million points in 24 hours is a great achievement. Nevertheless, Gedas and Mindis are waiting for the log check - modest, professional radio amateurs.



The interview that Ed, DD5LP, has with them at the site has been recorded and videoed by Ralf, DH2FBL. Both return quickly to Wittenberg to deliver the media. Gedas asked me then to take some photos of the volunteers and the contest team. Gedas and Mindis know what they owe their success to the committed and perfect team work by the helpers at Site ABG-3. What distinguishes the LY team as well, is that they are also, outside of the hobby, great people, with whom one is very proud to be friends.



With ABG-3, there was something else: Gradually I got used to the cryptic abbreviations. Now I will remember Annaburg near Jessen as - ABG-3 because it was the place that created new world champions. It completes a great WRTC snapshot for me that I will never forget.

## Exhausted - but happy: Teams return from their sites to the Luther Hotel

Published: 15 July 2018

Gradually, the competition teams and their referees arrive at the Luther Hotel in Wittenberg. They have behind them 24 hours of competition. Many thousands of contacts are recorded in the logbooks. Now the USB sticks have been handed over to the log checkers and the logbook files are subjected to strict control. Tomorrow, we'll know more about the final positions of the 63 teams.



## With Y81N to victory.

Published: 15 July 2018

Short interview with Gedas Lucinskas, LY9A, and Mindis Jukna, LY4L.

It looks highly likely that the team from Lithuania have won the WRTC 2018 by far, with more than 5200 QSOs and more than 5.9 million points. The station was operated with two YAESU FTDX-5000 transceivers. As with all WRTC contest stations, it used a HD Spider Beam with a built-in 40m dipole. A specially made for the WRTC, WIMO dipole antenna was used on 80m. The Spider beam was mounted at 12m height on an aluminum telescopic mast and just below the beam was the support for the 80m dipole.

Paul Bigwood, G3WYW, from prime sponsor YAESU was delighted with the winning team from Lithuania and insisted on congratulating the successful team on site in Annaburg. He had the station shown to him. It was a true "hotspot", because the temperature in the station tent had climbed to almost 40 ° C. "A phenomenal performance of our friends from Lithuania and I am impressed and thrilled at the same time," said Paul in the presence of the team.

### **What are your first impressions after the contest?**

Happy, relieved

### **What were the propagation conditions like?**

Can't really comment as they are different to at home.

### **How did the SSB / CW contacts split?**

Over 30% SSB.

### **Did you have any problems of a technical nature at the site?**

No everything worked perfectly.

### **What are your impressions of the volunteers and the organization of the WRTC?**

Very happy with both organisation and especially the helpers.

**What were the most important steps for you in your preparation for the WRTC?**

Daily training with Morse Runner and several contests together as a team.

**What impressions does Wittenberg leave in your memory?**

We haven't seen Wittenberg town, the countryside is nice. Perhaps we can walk around Wittenberg on Monday or Tuesday.

The last seconds of the Contest: Frank, DM5WF, visited the German top team Manfred, DJ5MW and Stefan, DL1IAO

Published: 16 July 2018

After the WRTC stations stopped operating at 2:00 pm local time yesterday, DM5WF, Frank, also felt the tension of the past few weeks and months.



Frank sought out all the sites last year and talked to many regional land owners about the WRTC. His investment of thousands of miles and certainly a thousand hours for the WRTC are an incredible achievement.

"Always keeping an eye on the online scoreboard, I headed to our old field day site in Kosilenzien shortly before the end of the contest," Frank reported. Here one of the German teams was located consisting of Manfred Wolf, DJ5MW and Stefan von Balz, DL1IAO. Two well-known figures in the contest scene who came third in the WRTC2014 in the USA.

In a loud voice, Rusty, W6OAT, who had been watching the two competitors for 24 hours as their referee, counts down the last five seconds. "The atmosphere reminds me of a class project during my school time," says Frank. Moments later, the competitors come out of the tent amid the applause of their helper team. One of the helpers shows them the online scoreboard on their mobile phone and only now they learn what the many hours of hard work were worth in the end.

The provisional final result sees Manfred and Stefan in second place. Completely exhausted but happy, the two hug each other. Rusty is obviously also thrilled with the result and confirms the two to have done an excellent job.

Frank's conclusion: "WRTC2018 - you just have to experience it! Many thanks to all from the Y43 club who came here and worked as helpers."

## German team congratulates the winning team

Published: 16 July 2018

"The LY team have improved, which we did not manage to do as well! We heartily congratulate the Lithuanians", said the runners-up Manfred Wolf, DJ5MW, and Stefan von Baltz, DL1IAO. With their result, both are very satisfied: "It went great for us. We said before the contest that our goal is to finish in the top 10. That we reached second place is a great achievement. Focus mode was Morse telegraphy. Of the total of 4974 contacts, 3620 CW QSOs are in the log. The propagation conditions were positive. The 20m band closed for DX connections earlier than expected. However, sporadic E on 10m allowed good contacts to be made. Also on 15m there were a number of QSOs possible.

Both were pleased about the DX contacts on the 80m and 40m bands. Around 20 QSOs with North America and also a QSO with Brazil are in the log of the 80m band.

"The volunteers were fantastic and our heartfelt thanks go to the organizers of the WRTC 2018," says Manfred, and Stefan nods in agreement. Whether they will compete again in 2022 remains to be seen, because the effort needed is substantial.

## Irina Stieber: In the pile up I was able to "Ausfunken".

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DL8DYL talking to the WRTC media team

Wittenberg. (xv) "With 100 watts to get a pile up to North America on the low bands - that was phenomenal. I was really challenged, and it was great to be able to really get into it," enthused Irina Stieber (DL8DYL) from Dresden, expressing her personal impressions of the WRTC. Team partner of Maddin Riederer (DL4NAC) from Bayreuth, both have achieved more than 4100 QSOs and about 75% of them have been on CW. For Irina it was amazing what can be achieved with a 12m high dipole: "I am very pleased that it was relatively easy to reach stations outside of Europe with only this transmitter power." Irina had concentrated on Morse telegraphy. In phases I managed more than 200 contacts per hour.



"I sent it faster than usual, but also adapted to the speed of the calling station, there were only a few repeat requests," she continues. Her team partner Maddin said yesterday after the contest he was very positive about the operating standards of the German stations calling: "The German stations have sent precise and short messages with their call sign and report, there were also no repeat requests or corrections." The notes supplied on operating procedure for this competition in the run-up to the WRTC were obviously heeded. Useful to make sure there were many contacts, the special call signs that the Federal Network Agency allocated for the WRTC stations. "With our Y89D call sign we were very popular on the bands." The concentration level needed in the pile ups was probably less than usual. "After a busy night, we had a small headache on Sunday morning before getting into the final hours of the competition," says Irina. Conditions were demanding not only in radio operation but also the weather conditions: "During the day around 30 ° C and at night as cold as in Alaska," someone from the helper team had said. Irina can not make friends with the cold weather: "I had everything there just in case and with the „onion technique" I was able to keep warm, a thick jacket and a blanket were very useful." Irina was grateful for the effort of canadian referee Nick Lekic (VE3EY) and... "Our helpers provided a great service. Whether it was related to the supply of drinks and food or when we needed technical help before the start of the contest, there was always someone approachable and immediately on hand to fulfill every wish, "says the sympathetic Dresden woman, the appreciation of the help is clear. When asked about the station's technology, she raises her eyebrows slightly. "The station setup I have at home is more handy than a WRTC station and there's also the division of labour. When such a station is built, an IT technician is as necessary as well as someone with an overview of the entire wiring system" she tells us.

Whether she will compete again in 2022 at the next WRTC, she keeps her options open. "The needed qualifying competition time puts a strain on the family. Organizing holiday periods on contest weekends is not always family-friendly, "she admits.

All in all, Irina draws a very positive conclusion. "A World Championship is something special and it's great to be there. Apart from the contest, meeting old friends, making new friends, and experiencing this great atmosphere is THE aspect that makes the long road from the first qualifying competition to the last minute of the contest truly worthwhile" she says, heading off to spend a relaxing afternoon with her family in Wittenberg. The family is happy because they have had to give up Irina for many hours.

## Closing ceremony - New World Champions honored

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World Championship ended with a great closing ceremony



The winners of the World Championship of Radio Amateurs are from Lithuania. Gedas Lucinskas (LY9A) and Mindis Jukna (LY4L) won ahead of the German team with Manfred Wolf (DJ5MW) and Stefan von Baltz (DL1IAO) from Baden-Württemberg. In third place are Chris Hurlbut (KL9A) and Daniel Craig (N6MJ), who became world champions four years ago in Boston.

In total, radio amateurs from all over the world were reached by the 63 competition teams with 262,746 contacts during the 24-hour competition. More than 40 nations were represented in Wittenberg with the competitors and referees.

The trophies were handed over to the winning teams and all teams were very happy..

In his welcome address Christian Janßen, DL1MGB, looked back on the eventful 4 years. Especially on the performance of the great team he formed. Chris called to represent over 300 helpers, four supporters on to the stage, who have performed great work in the background. Oskar Radwan, DL3OF, and Renate Radwan, DG2HUF, managed the warehouse in Jessen. Frank Neumann, DM5WF, has explored the sites and Steffen Kaiser, DL5SFI, acted as chief photographer. They were honored with great applause and a gold medal.

The Jessen Mayor Michael Jahn expressed his appreciation and thanks to the competitors, referees and helpers. "The accomplishments of the helpers are large. To build 65 large antennas - to support the tents and the power generators - that is great. I'm convinced that you can count on radio amateurs," he said in his speech in front of over 600 World Championship participants - because everyone who helped with this event has the right to consider himself a participant in the World Championship.



An exciting and busy week lies behind all WRTC contributors.

With regard the extensive four-year long preparation, Mayor Jahn stated: "Andreas Winter, DK4WA, and Frank Neumann, DM5WF, from Mühlberg have managed to win over the land owners for this great project. The agricultural cooperatives gladly made their land available. I am proud of our local people. Frank and Andreas gave special thanks for this incredible work in volunteering. "

The chairman of the German Amateur Radio Club, Steffen Schöppe, DL7ATE, also sent his thanks. He was represented by Ron Jerke, DG2RON, who heads the District of Brandenburg. Steffen emphasized that there were also many volunteers in the run-up to the event, who bought and processed material and used countless hours or days to organize the smooth running of the World Championship in the background.

The helpers came not only from the host country of the World Championship in Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt, but from all over Germany and also from abroad. For this he expressed his heartfelt thanks.

It got a bit more technical in a presentation from Paul Bigwood, G3WYW, the representative of prime sponsor YAESU. He reported on the history and current trends in amateur radio, from the perspective of a manufacturer. For the entire organization he found very complimentary words and expressed his thanks to the organizers.

The presentation of the WRTC trophies was moderated by Randy Thomson, K5ZD. He reported that the evaluation committee received 3500 logs within 16 hours, which could be used for the audit.

The following awards were awarded

- WRTC 2018 SSB Leaders were awarded to Jeff Briggs, VY2ZM and Patrick Briggs, KK6ZM by Michael Jahn
- WRTC 2018 CW Leaders were Tonno Vakh, ES5TV and Tiovo Hallikivi, ES2RR awarded by Ralf Theunert, DK1DSA
- WRTC 2018 Multiplier Leaders were Tonno Vakh ES5TV and Tiovo Hallikivi, ES2RR awarded by Ulf Ehrlich, DL5AXX.
- WRTC 2018 Accuracy Leaders were Leo Slavov, OR2F, and Pascal Lierman, ON5RA awarded by Dietmar Kasper, DL3DXX

Before the main places on the podium were awarded, Chris, DL1MGB, awarded the best youth team award to Alexandru Mancus, YO8TTT, and Leonid Kharchenko, UT5GW, who were the best of the youth teams and finished 14th in the overall standings.

Then the "Best of the Best" were called up.

- The bronze medal went to previous World Champions Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, and Daniel Craig, N6MJ. The trophy was awarded by Uwe, DL8OBF.
- The silver medal was won by Manfred Wolf, DJ5MW, and Stefan von Baltz, DL1IAO. The trophy was presented by Michael Höding, DL6MHW.
- New World Champions are Gedas Lucinskas, LY9A, and Mindis Jukna, LY4L. The trophy was presented by Christian Janßen, DL1MGB.

Michael Jahn and Chris, DL1MGB, ended the awards ceremony with great applause from the audience. A moving moment for the new World Champions and all those involved in the WRTC 2018.

Finally, the WRTC was formally ended by the chairman of the Sanctioning Committee. He also expressed his gratitude for the unforgettable days in Jessen / Wittenberg. He announced with great applause that the next WRTC will take place in Italy.

The WRTC 2018 ended with a celebration where helpers, competitors and referees discussed their great experiences with each other.

## WRTC 2018 Certificates - A Recognition of High Levels of Activity

Published: 27 August 2018

At the WRTC in July 2018, the 63 Y8 stations logged 262,746 QSOs. All WRTC participants were amazed by the big pile-ups they were able to produce running just 100 watts. In addition to the unusual call signs, the award program was certainly an incentive for the callers.

In the meantime the results are available on the website ([www.wrtc2018.de](http://www.wrtc2018.de)) under the menu item "Activities".

While no log submission was required for the Worked-All-WRTC award, the other awards are based on the logs sent in shortly after the contest. These were used in the rapid evaluation process to check the WRTC competitors log quality. These contributors provided, by their log submissions, help to the log checking team.

All those who submitted a log receives the title "Assistant Judge" and a corresponding certificate. Furthermore, 20 call signs were drawn randomly, who will receive a prize in the next few days.

The winners of the WRTC Sprint, Most QSOs and Distance Challenge ratings can also look forward to receiving a prize.

In the WRTC Sprint, the goal was to work all Y8 calls in as short a time frame as possible. Timing started running from the first QSO. Due to the different distances, a separate score was calculated for each of the 29 WRTC qualifying regions. From 20 of the 29 regions at least one station contacted all 63 Y8 calls. DK2CX was quickest and managed the 63 QSOs in only 56 minutes using the home country advantage. But even from South America 63 contacts were possible as proved by PY2XB.

In the "Most QSOs" ranking OH2BU achieved the best result worldwide with 513 QSOs with WRTC stations - obviously thanks to precise planning and good skip. DL0SLG managed, with 361, the most QSOs in the DL region. Here too the results rankings were carried out according to the 29 regions.

Particularly interesting was the "Distance Challenge", in which all participants compete with each other worldwide. The results list shows PY2XB at the top with 2.3 million kilometers covered. He is followed by K3WW with 1,529,469 km and W3UA with 1,521,413 km. These participants will also receive a commemorative prize in the next few weeks.

The organizers of the WRTC 2018 would like to thank all participants for the support of the many QSOs and the log submissions.

Results of the "Assistant Judge"-Draw: DL5CW, K2YGM, DF2FM UA6LCJ, DF7ZS, UR7CB, IK1YFE, HA4FY, K8SV, DH2WQ, VE3UTT, OM3BA, DL0LK, OH5YO, OX3LX, WC2L, ZL2AGY, SD6M, LX1DKE, DL4FDM

## WRTC 2018 - a review

Published: 02 September 2018

After the busy days of the WRTC 2018 and work required after the event, it is time to stand back and review what was achieved.



The organizers can be proud of a successful WRTC. The main goals that have driven us for four years were fulfilled. The dream of the summer fairy tale came true for amateur radio in Germany. Each participant has taken away their special memories that will undoubtedly motivate them over the next few years.

The members of the organizing team have compiled some notes about aspects of the project that are worthy of note.

### Field operations and technology used

Antenna boss Paul, DL5CW, is pleased with the positive results:

- Despite heavy rain on Thursday, all 65 antenna installations were completed on time
- The previous training courses definitely contributed greatly to this success
- All antennas were ready for the contest with the SWR within the expected range for all antennas

The uniformity of the sites was the responsibility of Uli, DJ2YA. He reports:

- The cooperation with RigExpert providing the ability to load data for multiple sites in their new AntScope2 software was successful
- Intensive preparation work with DL5CW in Jessen from Friday to Tuesday of the week preceding the event including the instruction of the antenna chiefs on Tuesday paid dividends
- Two analyzers failed due to static charges (RigExpert analyzed and repaired the defective units)
- SWR data from ALL sites was backed up for documentation (instructions were followed to the letter making this action 100% successful)
- There was lots of praise for "site quality" and requests from the WRTC2022 team for advice for the Bologna event

The group of 300 helpers was managed by Axel, DL6KVA. He'd like to emphasize:

- The dedication of the helpers (no matter in which area) was exemplary and a major contribution to the success of the WRTC 2018
- Very positive feedback was received both from the competitors and the referees but also from the fellow helpers

- The cooperation in the organization team has always been goal-oriented and has been enjoyable
- The media team at the WRTC should certainly be acknowledged for their work publicizing the WRTC to areas of the hobby who would not normally be involved.

Andy, DK4WA, DARC Regional Manager of Jessen added

- Problems were solved flexibly - a generator that appeared to be malfunctioning was reported and a replacement unit was quickly delivered
- An RFI problem from the switching power supply of a competitor's monitor - was quickly resolved by a volunteer supplying a suitable replacement power supply

## Competition

Responsible for the competition was Uwe, DL8OBF, - he was very satisfied:

- The prepared rules and FAQs answered most of the questions in advance - Thursday's question time meeting was shorter than expected
- Working with the judging committee was easy
- No thunderstorms or major technical failures affected the competition
- The Y8 call signs created huge pile ups

Log checking and scoring was controlled by Dietmar, DL3DXX.

- Evaluation used a web-based solution based on PHP and MySQL
- 3764 check logs with 1.5 million QSOs were used to cross-check the competitors logs
- Dubious cases were examined manually by the evaluation team, for this purpose audio recordings from the participants were used
- Log checking was already completed by 12 o'clock on Monday

## Organization and HQ

Chris, DL1MGB, as head of the organization highlights the following points

- The helpers used their own initiative, solving problems by engaging the required people if they were not able to solve the problem themselves.
- After many days in the HQ-Centre, where there were almost always problems to solve, it was nice at the closing event to hear from the helpers, participants and guests of their broad approval and satisfaction with the event
- Especially nice to hear were the many stories of the local communities around the sites greeting and helping the groups.
- The most moving moment for me this week was when Tine S50A officially declared that the WRTC 2018 was over.

The hotel-based teams reported to Andrea, DL3ABL:

- Andreas, DC6RI, had brought about 1000 shirts and other materials to Wittenberg, which were sorted and bagged by the hotel team prior to the WRTC
- 80 file folders with antenna setup guides and Site Manager manuals were created, each page came in a waterproof presentation case
- The issue of materials (shirts, bags, tickets, score-collection computers, power meters) and the care of all guests was a full-time job virtually non-stop from Tuesday to Tuesday
- The public relations work was very successful. From the point of view of the PR, Michael, DL6MHW, highlighted the following aspects

- The media team ensured the steady release of approximately five articles per day on the WRTC2018 web page and in the online media
- Daily video production and the live streaming of opening and closing was very successful receiving lots of hits.
- There was great interest from the traditional media such as TV, radio and daily newspapers which brought amateur radio into the public eye. All of this work required a high level of effort and professionalism.
- Especially impressive was the processing of over 300 calls to the WRTC hotline, mainly by Felix, DL5XL and Axel, DL6KVA

Ben, DL6RAI, added as the supervisor of IT and live score board

- The website wrtc2018.de was the most important platform for external communication: it was bilingual and target group oriented
- The mailing lists based around the Mailman software formed a linchpin, especially for internal communication
- The ticket system (OTRS) was used extensively during the WRTC for the coordination of work
- The Real Time Scoreboard ran reliably throughout the WRTC, was a great success - warranting the large effort involved

Rudolf, DJ3WE, chief fundraiser since the beginning of 2018, was visibly relieved and grateful that he had managed to finance this mammoth project needing to raise more than 600,000 euros in donations.

- 80% of the donations come from the amateur radio community
- Around 40% of all donations were received from Germany and North America
- A major success factor were the many trips and appearances of the WRTC2018 team in the USA
- The amateur radio industry supported WRTC through equipment and cash donations, most notably YAESU as the WRTC Prime Sponsor
- The exhibition of some sponsors in the Luther hotel suffered from a lack of public interest: The room used was too remote. The enthusiasm of the guests about meeting each other along with the tension of the approaching contest in the competitors before the contest meant there was a lack of interest in visiting the sponsors exhibition room. Thankfully the sponsors were satisfied with many face to face individual discussions in a relaxed bar atmosphere and did not regret their commitment to WRTC2018.

## Conclusion

The records show that WRTC 2018 was a mammoth project. Despite the effort to be brief, this list is very long. The key points above illustrate the diversity and scope of the project. Many more points deserve to be presented in much greater detail.

For an interesting and global view of the WRTC 2018, please refer to the amateur radio media, in particular FUNKAMATEUR (09/2018) and CQDL (09/2018).