

**MEDIA RELEASE // approx. 4'000 characters**

## **Flying High against the Abu Dhabi Skyline**

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Hüttwilen, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 // **Participating in the High Diving World Cup requires plenty of courage, strength and body control. The competition – now in its third year – featured athletes diving from heights of 20 and 27 meters. Following the World Championship in Barcelona and the World Cup in Kazan, NUSSLI undertook construction of the diving platform for this daredevil water sport in the Bay of Abu Dhabi.**

For some, merely watching may cause dizziness — for others, it's just a part of their daily routine. Over the course of fourteen days, NUSSLI technicians hung suspended by safety ropes in the air and assembled the platform element by element, moving ever upward, until the structure had reached its final height of 27 meters. Construction of the diving platform in the "Corniche" Bay of Abu Dhabi not only required workers not suffering from any altitude issues, but also underwater specialists. The foundation for the diving platform was installed at a depth of eight meters before the assemblers could take over at the surface and continue the upward construction. NUSSLI was responsible for the planning and construction of the diving platforms for the High Diving World Championship in Barcelona in 2013 as well as the first High Diving World Cup in Kazan in 2015. This year's location of the platform in eight-meter-deep water in Abu Dhabi was both new and more challenging in comparison to the previous two events. Placing the diving platform in the Bay and having the structure itself stand in water was, naturally, the result of careful decision making and was worth the extra effort. The platform's location in water made the sporting event even more attractive to fans watching in person and at home on television. Afterall, the athletes were diving and twisting against Abu Dhabi's fascinating skyline.

### **Planning the Diving Platform**

The sport of high diving developed out of the ever-increasing popularity of natural cliff diving. Following profound public interest in the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series, the swimming federation FINA created the official discipline of High Diving and organized the first World Cup two years ago in Kazan. NUSSLI was involved right from the start, supporting the officials in the planning of the diving platform. The platforms in Barcelona and Kazan were constructed with particular attention being paid to wind conditions. In

Abu Dhabi, the platform required additional special considerations for the unilaterally mounted LED wall and stabilizing the structure in water. The experience gained from previous high diving projects enabled the NUSSLI engineers to plan and install the structure in Abu Dhabi in the water at a depth of eight meters.

### **Abu Dhabi — The Ideal Host City**

The first High Diving World Cup in Kazan featured 20 athletes. This year's event in Abu Dhabi showcased the daring dives of more than twice as many competitors. Plenty of courage and body control are needed to take a plunge from a height of 27 meters. The free fall from the 27 meter high diving platform lasts more than two seconds. The athletes dive into the water at a speed of 85 kilometers per hour. Everything must be working perfectly upon impact into the water. Given the high risk of injury jumping from this height, the athletes structure their dives so that their feet enter the water first. This high risk sport is a guaranteed thrill magnet for spectators. For Abu Dhabi, hosting this adventurous water sporting event is a good opportunity for the city to showcase itself. Not only does the city feature an excellent infrastructure, but also the perfect climate. The 25-meter Short Course Swimming World Championship will also be held in Abu Dhabi in 2020.

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**About NUSSLI**

With its temporary event structures, NUSSLI ensures that sport, cultural and business events held throughout the world leave a lasting impression. Our product line includes temporary grandstands, stages, event structures, event halls, pavilions as well as exhibition and museum structures. Since the founding of the Swiss company in 1941, NUSSLI has been developing technologically advanced and proven construction systems which form the structural framework for all types and sizes. Every day, 450 specialized professionals in 19 locations throughout the world bring their in-depth know-how, innovative approaches and flexibility to the table as they go to work on multifaceted design and construction projects. Each year, NUSSLI designs and builds approximately 2,000 exceptional event structures throughout the world, on time, with a reliable standard of quality, and precisely tailored to clients' requirements. For more information, please visit [www.nussli.com](http://www.nussli.com)