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**27.01.2023**

Messe Karlsruhe

meeting-karlsruhe.de

## Fast Times at the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe 2023

**Renewed duel between Pascal Martinot-Lagarde and Asier Martínez / Mujinga Kambundji is a renowned competitor for Asher-Smith and Swoboda in the women's sprint / Focus on the region's schoolchildren before the meeting / Remaining ticket contingent also sold out within minutes**

If you take a look at the starting field in the sprint disciplines at the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe 2023, you will quickly realise that fast times await you. Pascal Martinot-Lagarde, the 2018 European champion, and Asier Martínez, the reigning European champion, have confirmed their participation in the men's hurdles. In the women's sprint, Dina-Asher Smith, Ewa Swoboda, Malaika Mihambo and Alexandra Burghardt, who have already been confirmed, will have to compete with renowned rivals, as Mujinga Kambundji, the reigning world indoor champion, and the two British women Asha Philip and Daryll Neita will also compete in Karlsruhe.

### Hot hurdle sprints for the men

Athletics fans can look forward to the duel between Pascal Martinot-Lagarde and Asier Martínez in the men's 60-metre hurdles. **Pascal Martinot-Lagarde**, a hurdles sprinter who has already finished first in the 60-metre hurdles at the INIT INDOOR MEETING, will take his place on 27 January 2023, even though the 31-year-old had to wait ten years and five attempts before he was finally crowned indoor champion of the INIT INDOOR MEETING. "I am especially looking forward to seeing my countryman Pascal Martinot-Lagarde. He is already a permanent fixture at the INIT INDOOR MEETING, so to speak," says sports director Alain Blondel. "After his success last year, he will certainly want to reaffirm that this year," Blondel added. In his first attempt in 2012, the Frenchman did not finish higher than seventh and in the following years the podium was also out of reach for him. Last year, he then finally managed to win in 7.56 seconds ahead of the Spaniard **Asier Martínez**, who became European champion in the 110-metre hurdles in Munich in the summer. Now Martinot-Lagarde, who won the title at the 2018 European Outdoor Championships in Berlin and was also successful at the 2015 European Indoor Championships, wants to show what he can do again in Karlsruhe. Since Asier Martínez, last year's runner-up in the hurdles, will also be taking part, it will be another duel between the two. In addition to his European Championship title in the 110 metres hurdles outdoors, the Spaniard had previously won the bronze medal at the World Championships in Eugene.

Veranstalter:



Ausrichter:



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### High-calibre starting field at the women's sprint

The starting field in the women's 60-metre sprint at the INIT INDOOR MEETING is also becoming increasingly high-calibre. In addition to the already confirmed **Dina Asher-Smith**, **Ewa Swoboda**, **Malaika Mihambo** and **Alexandra Burghardt**, other world-class sprinters have also announced their participation. One is 30-year-old Swiss Mujinga Kambundji, who won the world indoor 60-metre title in Belgrade last year in 6.96 seconds and gold in the 200 metres and silver in the 100-metre at the European Outdoor Championships in Munich. In her previous starts at the meeting in Karlsruhe, Kambundji has never reached the podium at the meeting. That is set to change this year, although the competition is not going to stand idly by. Among them are the 32-year-old British **Asha Philip**, who has already been a guest at the INIT INDOOR MEETING twice and celebrated great successes with the British 4 x 100 metres relay team, as well as her 26-year-old countrywoman and successful relay teammate **Daryll Neita**, who want to give the Swiss Kambundji a run for her money.

### A focus on the schoolchildren of the region before the meeting

On 23 and 24 January 2023, the focus will be on the region's schoolchildren. After a two-year break because of the Coronavirus, schoolchildren from a total of 27 secondary schools will compete for the 34<sup>th</sup> time in the disciplines of short and middle distance running, long jump and high jump at the school athletics championships organised by the Youth Foundation of the Sparkasse Karlsruhe on 23 January. On the following day, the 26<sup>th</sup> Stadtwerke Karlsruhe Youth Indoor Meeting of the LG Region Karlsruhe will take place. The fact that the fastest runners will again be able to compete in interludes on 27 January in front of a sold-out hall should be motivation enough. In addition, the 25<sup>th</sup> Karlsruhe Sport Talk will take place on 26 January on the premises of the INIT INDOOR MEETING at Messe Karlsruhe.

### Remaining ticket contingent also sold out within minutes

The INIT INDOOR MEETING was sold out earlier than ever before. All tickets had already been sold out before Christmas. And the remaining contingent of tickets from TV blackouts and returning tickets from partners and sponsors, which went on sale yesterday morning, was also sold out in just over ten minutes. "Everything is set. We are very much looking forward to the start of the World Tour," says Martin Wacker, Meeting Director and Managing Director of the organising Karlsruhe Marketing und Event GmbH. "With the INIT INDOOR MEETING as the highlight, as well as the schoolchildren's championships and the youth indoor meeting in the run-up, Karlsruhe will be in the spotlight of athletics in the coming week," Wacker continued. Those who were unable to get hold of one of the 3,000 tickets for the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe need not be sad. The sports pictures from Karlsruhe are broadcast nationally and worldwide. SWR will be streaming from Exhibition Hall 3 on the day of the meeting from 18:30. In addition, the meeting will be broadcast worldwide by currently 19 broadcasters in around 60 countries, including South and Central America as well as Australia.

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For more information about the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe, please visit [www.meeting-karlsruhe.de](http://www.meeting-karlsruhe.de) and the meeting's social networks.

[www.facebook.com/IndoorMeetingKarlsruhe](https://www.facebook.com/IndoorMeetingKarlsruhe)

[www.twitter.com/INDOOR\\_MEETING](https://www.twitter.com/INDOOR_MEETING)

[www.instagram.com/indoormeetingkarlsruhe](https://www.instagram.com/indoormeetingkarlsruhe)

**Stops on the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold 2023:**

27.01.2023:	INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe (Karlsruhe, GER)
04.02.2023:	New Balance Indoor Grand Prix (Boston, USA)
08.02.2023:	Copernicus Cup (Torun, POL)
11.02.2023:	Millrose Games (New York, USA)
15.02.2023:	Meeting Hauts-de-France Pas-de-Calais (Liévin, FRA)
22.02.2023:	Villa de Madrid (Madrid, ESP)
25.02.2023:	Müller Indoor Grand Prix (Birmingham, GBR)

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