



Press Release

Paris, November 30th 2015

Zig & Sharko nominated for the 2015 Export Awards

Leading French animation studio, Xilam, is proud to announce its nomination for the 11th annual *Export Awards* (Animation category) for its animated series, **Zig & Sharko**. Providing a backdrop of stiff international competition, the *Export Awards* honor top program exporters who succeed in ensuring their productions have the highest sales and largest worldwide exposure. After a committee of international professionals from the entertainment sector has voted, the winner of the three nominees will be named during a special ceremony held by **TV France International** in Paris on December 14th.

Broadcast since 2012 in more than 120 countries, from Europe to the Middle East and from Asia to South America, **Zig & Sharko – Season 1** (78x7') has gained outstanding ratings on leading channels around the globe: TF1 and Gulli (France), Super RTL (Germany), Boing (Italy), Cartoon Network (Middle East and Africa), Disney (South-East Asia, Japan and Latin America), Nickelodeon (India), and Netflix (Worldwide). Following this booming success on TV but also on digital platforms (Youtube alone accounts for more than 12 million views /month), **Zig & Sharko – season 2** (78x7') is currently in production at Xilam's Paris-based animation studio, bringing the total number of episodes to 156 x 7 minutes or 52 half-hours.

A proven hit with family audiences, **Zig & Sharko** is a slapstick non-verbal comedy that recounts the insatiable and highly imaginative attempts by Zig, a famished hyena, to chomp into the beautiful, carefree mermaid, Marina. It's no piece of cake for Zig who has to continually face off with Marina's best friend, the mocking, muscle-bound Shark...Sharko!

Produced by Marc du Pontavice, created by Olivier Jean-Marie (director and screenwriter of the famous animated series *Oggy and the Cockroaches*), directed by Olivier Jean-Marie and Andrés Fernandez, this high-octane series combines a powerful mix of madcap comedy, unexpected twists, non-stop energy and emotional charge.

Marc du Pontavice, Founder and CEO of Xilam Animation: “*Zig and Sharko worldwide success continues to grow and follows in the footsteps of its older sibling, Oggy and the Cockroaches. We are delighted to be able to offer a brand new season to the millions of fans who have already fallen in love with these wacky, endearing characters.*”

Worldwide distribution rights are handled by Xilam.

About Xilam

Founded in 1999 by Marc du Pontavice, Xilam is a production company specializing in family-oriented, audiovisual and multimedia content. Xilam creates, produces and distributes cartoons, animated series and feature films for TV, the cinema and all cutting-edge technological and media platforms.

With a catalogue of 1500 episodes of internationally acclaimed programs, Xilam currently employs 300 people, including 200 artists, operating from its three studios, one in Paris, one in Lyon and one in Hô-Chi-Minh City in Vietnam.

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