

## Powersports dealers roam expanded convention center

Written by

**Jeff Swiatek**

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The Indiana Convention Center is packed with motorbikes and more this weekend as it hosts the first major user of its newly expanded space.

More than 20,000 people are expected to roam the International Powersports Dealer Expo, which has taken over the entire convention center from Friday through Sunday.

The massive business-to-business show, which is closed to the public, was one of the mega-shows that might have left Indianapolis if the convention center had not expanded, said Chris Gahl, a spokesman for the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association. The expo is now committed to return to Indianapolis yearly through 2016.

Specializing in sales of motorcycles and parts and accessories, along with boats and all-terrain vehicles, the show is one of the five largest conventions held in Indianapolis. Spending from the show should hit \$20 million.

The Dealer Expo features more than 700 exhibitors displaying items from caps to a 10-seat customized Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Exhibitors, many from Asia, include 67 companies selling helmets, 32 selling leather pants and 42 selling windscreens.

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Arkansas retailers Travis Kershner (left) and John DeWeese check out a bike painted with the Japanese god of wind at Jeff Schwindt's AirFX booth at the expo. / Charlie Nye / The Star

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