

ATP 250

16.-25.7.2021.

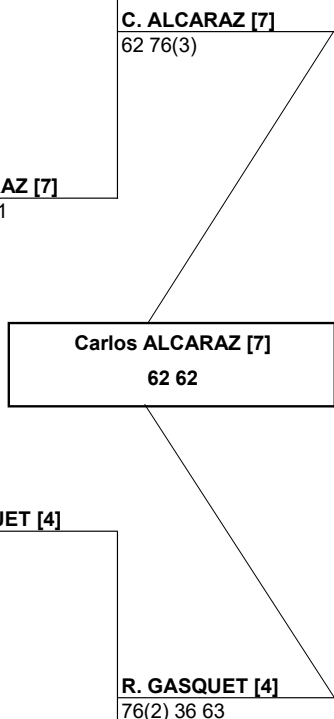
PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG

DAILY NEWS

#ATPUMAG • #31ATPUMAG • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • NO7 • 26.07.2021.



STATUS	NAT			
1	ESP	RAMOS-VINOLAS, Albert	A. RAMOS-VINOLAS [1]	
2		BYE		
3	Q ARG	COLLARINI, Andrea	D. AJDUKOVIC	A. RAMOS-VINOLAS [1]
4	WC CRO	AJDUKOVIC, Duje	63 62	75 64
5	ESP	TABERNER, Carlos	C. TABERNER	A. RAMOS-VINOLAS [1]
6	WC CRO	SERDARUSIC, Nino	62 62	62 61
7	ITA	TRAVAGLIA, Stefano	S. TRAVAGLIA	S. TRAVAGLIA
8	6 ESP	MUNAR, Jaume	63 76(1)	64 63
9	3 SRB	KRAJINOVIC, Filip	F. KRAJINOVIC [3]	
10		BYE		
11	WC DEN	RUNE, Holger Vitus Nodskov	R. ALBOT	F. KRAJINOVIC [3]
12	MDA	ALBOT, Radu	16 63 62	64 62
13	LL ARG	OLIVO, Renzo	A. MARTIN	C. ALCARAZ [7]
14	SVK	MARTIN, Andrej	16 62 76(1)	76(3) 26 61
15	FRA	POUILLE, Lucas	C. ALCARAZ [7]	
16	7 ESP	ALCARAZ, Carlos	36 62 62	63 61
17	5 SLO	BEDENE, Aljaz	M. CECCHINATO	
18	ITA	CECCHINATO, Marco	61 64	
19	BIH	DZUMHUR, Damir	D. DZUMHUR	D. DZUMHUR
20	Q SVK	HORANSKY, Filip	64 63	63 61
21	Q ITA	GIANNESI, Alessandro	A. GIANNESI	R. GASQUET [4]
22	CZE	VESELY, Jiri	76(4) 75	63 76(7)
23		BYE		
24	4 FRA	GASQUET, Richard	R. GASQUET [4]	
25	8 ITA	MAGER, Gianluca	G. MAGER [8]	
26	ESP	MARTINEZ, Pedro	06 63 63	
27	Q GER	ALTMAYER, Daniel	D. ALTMAYER	D. ALTMAYER
28	FRA	MOUTET, Corentin	57 61 00 Ret'd	46 61 75
29	ESP	ZAPATA MIRALLES, Bernabe	B. ZAPATA MIRALLES	D. ALTMAYER
30	URU	CUEVAS, Pablo	46 62 64	62 64
31		BYE		
32	2 SRB	LAJOVIC, Dusan	D. LAJOVIC [2]	D. LAJOVIC [2]
				75 64



EVERYTHING IS EASY WITH NADAL!

An unavoidable part of this year's Croatia Open were epidemiological measures in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 virus infection. The tournament was held in accordance with the recommendations of the Civil Protection Committee, and also additional guidelines from the ATP, in order to minimize the possibility of players becoming infected in Umag.

Entrance to the stadium and the tournament zone was possible with a COVID certificate without the need for additional testing, and those without a green certificate could do the testing at the entrance, with the results ready in at least 20 minutes. Other rules applied to those who, due to the nature of the job, were in contact with the players or their support staff, and

their accreditations had a validity period of 48 hours, ie, testing was mandatory every two days.

During about ten days, around 6000 tests were performed, and for the needs of the Umag tournament, an antigenic rapid test called NADAL was used, which gives accurate results in a very short time. Lab Plus Polyclinic performed the a large

share of the work in sampling and rapid processing at several locations, and nine employees were hired during these ten days. In addition, about twenty security guards worked on the control of certificates, so we're allowed to say that one of the most demanding challenges related to the organization of the tournament was passed with flying colors!

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG WAS VISITED BY MINISTER NIKOLINA BRNJAC



ATP tournament in Umag is an important sport event, but also social event, for Croatia, and especially for Umag and Istria, because it promotes Croatia in the world with exceptional quality and is an additional motive for tourists to come to Umag.

Brnjac, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Vili Basanesse, Mayor of Umag, and a large number of businessmen arrived to see the final match this year.

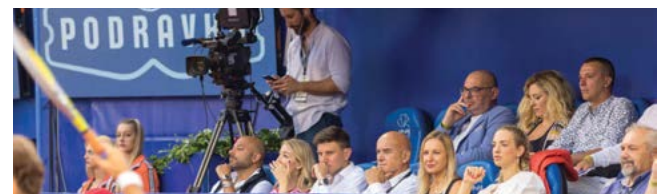
Nikolina Brnjac, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Davor Lukšić, President of the Supervisory Board of Plava Laguna, Dragan Pujas, President of the Management Board of Plava Laguna, and many other important people from the business and political world watched the match from the presidential lounge at Goran Ivanišević Stadium.

It is also a meeting place for the political and economic elite and it is very important to be seen at one of the biggest sport events in Croatia. That is why year after year the very Croatian political leadership comes to Umag, as well as the top businessmen. Nikolina

"Events like this mean a lot for the promotion of Croatian tourism. Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag is our longest-running tournament with a tradition of over 30 years. We are very pleased with the arrival of foreign tourists in Umag, and the tournament is certainly one of the reasons for coming to the destination. Also, the multiplicative factor for the promotion of such events is important." – said Minister Nikolina Brnjac.

Vili Basanesse, the President of the Management Board of HEP Frane Barbarić, the President of the Management Board of Plava Laguna Dragan Pujas and the tournament director Tomislav Poljak.

The awards were presented to the finalists at the closing ceremony by the Mayor of the City of Umag



LET'S HAVE FUN RESPONSIBLY!



The Ministry of Tourism and Sports also provided Safe Stay disinfectants for tournament visitors, wanting to encourage everyone to behave responsibly while enjoying tennis matches and good fun.



CARLOS ALCARAZ WON THE FIRST GREAT TITLE IN UMAG

Young Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz, an 18-year-old who is expected to have a top tennis career, is the winner of the 31st edition of the Umag ATP tournament. In the final of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, he defeated the Frenchman Richard Gasquet with 6:2, 6:2, and reached the first big title. Up until this week, his best result was entering the semi-finals in Marbella this spring, and now he has gone even further and taken a new step towards entering top 50 players in the world - he should jump up from 73rd to 54th place on the individual ATP list.

"The feeling is great and I am very happy. I enjoy this moment. I beat five really good players in the tournament and my play developed this week," said Alcaraz.

The match lasted only 77 minutes, and from the beginning, the

Spaniard was the one who dictated the game. He won the game four times on the opponent's serve, and he saved all three break points. The Frenchman could not match the great energy of the opponent and it seemed that after Saturday's match, in which he spent more than three hours on the pitch, he did not have the necessary stamina.

"The key to this match was intensity. It was hard for me to follow such rhythm. Carlos played very fast and with a lot of energy. He is a great player and tennis player of the future. I couldn't match his skill. I agree with the assessment that he will soon be among the top ten and will win Grand Slam tournaments," said Gasquet.

Never before the 31st edition of the Umag tournament was the finalist as young as Alcaraz, and certainly not the winner. Richard

Gasquet, on the other hand, is the second oldest participant in the Umag finals: he is 35 years old, just like the Italian Paolo Lorenzi, who entered the finals in Umag in 2017.

Since the establishment of the ATP in 1990, this is the third biggest difference in the age of the two finalists: the first two "positions" belong to the matches Federer (38) - De Minaur (20) in Basel in 2019 and Federer (37) - Tsitsipas (20.) in Dubai 2019.

With this result, Alcaraz became the seventh Spaniard with the title in Umag, and at the same time he achieved the result achieved 11 years ago by his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, who also won the title at the Croatia Open.

OSCAR'S CORNER

The final match between Richard Gasquet and Carlos Alcaraz decided the winner of the Umag tournament in 2021, and the Spaniard defeated his opponent without a big fight with 6:2, 6:2.

Even though he is only 18 years old he played great throughout the tournament and showed why everyone praises him. This is the first tournament victory in his career.

Thank you all for the great support and great organization, and I hope that next year will be even better and I am already looking forward to the 2022 tournament and its 32nd edition.

Written by Oskar Visintin



COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

WE WERE NOT EXAGGERATING

I expected a little more resistance from Gasquet in the final, but I honestly didn't give him much of a chance. Not because he's not good, not because he didn't play well during the tournament, but because he played an exhausting match on Saturday and because Carlos Alcaraz was on the other side of the net. All those who doubted and thought we were exaggerating when we announced him before the start of the tournament as a player to meet because it is about the future of world tennis, have now seen it all. This week was a real opportunity to meet him and I am extremely glad that he won the first tournament of his career right here. The first of many, and there will be everything from the ATP to the Grand Slam tournaments.

I'm fascinated with the way he plays. Many compare him to Nadal, but this is incomparable. He doesn't even like it. He is Carlos who in a few years, but I actually sooner than that, will be among the top ten players in the world. When you look at him, you don't have the impression that he is 18, instead you'd give him 25, you would think was already on many tournaments, that there are a lot of matches like this behind him. That's how mature and powerful player he

is. The only thing I can compare him to Nadal in is that passion in the game. There is no losing points for him and he hits every ball with full force.

At the announcement of the winner he said "see you next year" and I hope it wasn't a common phrase, but that he really meant it. I hope he will be one of those who will stay fair and remember who gave him the chance. He eventually entered the main event directly, but we had an agreement that he would get a wild card if he needed it, so I hope he will remember that next year.

And then imagine what the tournament might look like if Alcaraz and the players who were supposed to be with us now come to us. Fognini, Musetti, Sinner, Rune... Maybe another young player that we will "sniff out" as extremely talented and then our tennis players on top of that. Duje Ajduković for example, whom I expect to make additional progress, or Borna Gojo... We will give someone a push in a form of a wild card, as we did this time and did the right thing. It will be a good story again, good tennis we already have, this year's final match is barely over, but I can say that I can't wait for the next tournament.



TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

THE FIRST OF MANY TROPHIES CARLOS WILL WIN

A few days ago I said that the star was born and even though it might seem that it is too early for such a statement, the way the 31st PLava Laguna Croatia Open Umag ended could only be wished for. The fact that the guy who will write tennis history won his first big title in Umag will be remembered, but from what we have seen it is clear that there will be many more trophies in his hands. I see him as a Grand Slam winner, as a player who will make big, big results.

I'm overjoyed about that, because it turned out we were right to focus ourselves to him. It happened exactly as we feared it would in the final, that is, that Richard Gasquet would try to play the best he could, but his body would not allow him to play the best tennis. After the semi-final marathon against Daniel Altmaier he had no strength.

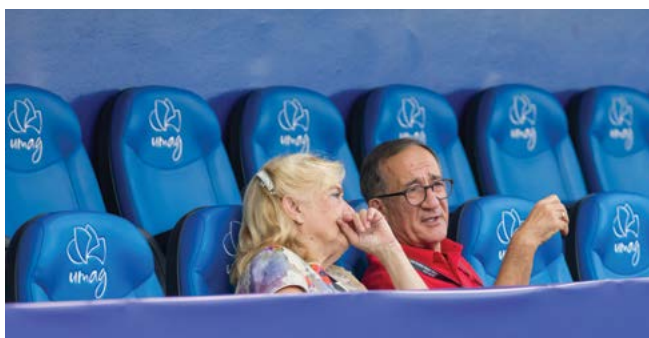
Alcaraz played the match under complete control and at no point did it seem that Gasquet had any chance. The records that Carlos broke with his performance in Umag this year, and some in

general, are really fantastic. I'm sure this is one of the many trophies he will win in his career. I dare to say that he will enter the top ten even before the time comes to defend the Umag title.

It was nice to hear his words saying: "I will return to Umag." I firmly believe in that, because we have an agreement that should be valid for the year ahead and I really hope that the great effort of the team that gave everything to make this tournament happen the best it could will be rewarded next year. The tournament is not done for just one season, it is built from year to year. This has been a challenging season for us in many aspects, from being an Olympic year to restrictive epidemiological measures, but we had great players and ultimately a great tournament.

I had great colleagues, we worked great, did great things and I hope that next year we will be rewarded with an even better tournament, even better tennis, and an event without masks and fences. See you in Stella Maris at the end of July 2022!

CELEBRITIES AT THE UMAG STANDS



In addition to tennis stars participating in the 31st Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament, you can meet many sports, entertainment, and politics celebrities at the Stella Maris Resort in Umag. Many of them came to Umag from different parts of the world precisely because of tennis, and they follow the favorites who play at the Goran Ivančević Stadium. You can meet Goran Ivančević in Stella Maris every day, and also another Croatian tennis ace - Goran Prpić - who came to watch the matches. Lino Červar, best known person from Umag, an icon of Croatian handball and a world-renowned handball coach, is a regular guest

in the stands. Silvio Marić, the legend of Zagreb's Dinamo, is again this year in Umag in the role of organizer of the Umag Stars Open, a recreational tournament for former and current athletes, tennis fans.

The matches are, of course, followed every day by Tomislav Poljak, the tournament director, always in the chosen company of famous tennis players or their coaches who came to enjoy good and exciting tennis. Croatian music celebrities perform in the entertainment program every day - Neno Belan, Cubismo, Ante Gelo, Ana Rucner, Detour and many others.



NO TIME TO SIT STILL

The unspoiled inlands of Istria are the ideal place for those seeking an adventurous and active holiday due to its rolling hills and valleys. Discover real pre-historic footprints at the Promenade of Dinosaurs on the island of the National Park of Brijuni, dinosaur replicas and skeletons. Then at the Dino Park in Funtana and tropical aquatic life at the Aquarium Pula and the Marine Turtle Rescue Centre. For the ultimate adrenaline rush head to Istralandia, Croatia's first water park. The aquatic world has 20 different slides and 1.6 kilometres of pipes and whilst the kids are descending the shoots adults can relax in the hydromassage pools. What a wildlife themed adventure for the whole family!



Photo: CNTB

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UMAG STARS OPEN U STELLA MARISU

Umag Stars Open, a recreational tournament organized by former Dinamo legend Silvije Marić, was played as an accompanying tournament on Stella Maris.

This year's winners were Azer Berber in singles, and Tin Baković and Ado Glavaš in doubles, who defeated Darko Mamić and Alen Bill in an exciting final.

"We had semi-professional tennis in the doubles competition, not just

great recreational tennis, since professional athletes had a recreational player with them. There were also serves that went over 200 km/h," points out the organizer Sivio Marić.

Due to a back injury, the winner of the single was decided in a bit disappointing way, but still - Azer Berber deserved the victory he took.

Silvio Marić points out that good recreational tennis was also played in Umag. *"In a way this is a mini-*

championship of Croatia of this type of tennis and one of the strongest in the country. The impressions of the players are fantastic, everything is arranged perfectly and Umag is a great host. It's beautiful and I'm glad we're coming back to life after the pandemic. Congratulations to the winners and we hope to see you next year as well.

I hope that next year even more people will come from Zagreb, Rijeka and the surrounding coun-

tries, because this year it also had an international aspect. I believe that next year we will have great recreational players and a large number of spectators. This is the best merging of fun and sports."

96 singles and 64 doubles tennis players were competing this year. The tournament brought together professional athletes, former athletes, people from showbiz and Croatian business. See you next year!



THE WINNERS OF THE VIP TOURNAMENT ARE MATE ŠETIĆ AND MARIO GRNJA



Mate Šetić and Mario Grnja are the winners of the Umag VIP tournament. In the final match they beat Marin Galić and Boris Vujičić. The third place was won by Siniša Duvanović and Marko Ljubičić.

We are satisfied with the victory, but

it was difficult and uncertain, but we were a little luckier in the decisive points, the winners pointed out.

Traditionally, a invite only VIP doubles tournament is held within the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. This Sunday, July 25, 2021, 24 spon-

sors, social and sports dignitaries gathered to determine on the courts of the Tennis Academy in Kator who are the best tennis players among the best businessmen.

Jadran Mimica, organizers of the tournament, told us: *"Although the*

tournament is primarily conceived as fun and social event, competitive element is as strong as the main ATP tournament. It is important for each participant to win, which is understandable considering that these are people used to competition, so there are no concessions. Rackets are known to fly, complaints and protests abound, and everything that goes along. However, as soon as we meet together on the terrace, all passions calm down and the atmosphere is great. The vast majority of our players return to every edition of Umag for 21 years in a row, which speaks volumes about their satisfaction with this tournament."

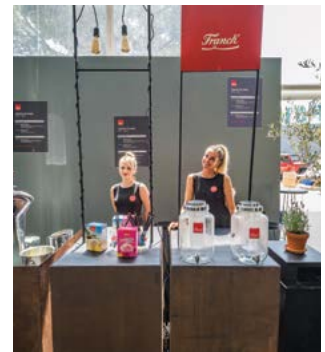
Congratulations to the winners and we hope to see you next year as well.

REST AND RELAXATION IN THE SOCIAL ARENA

Top tennis, great music and excellent gastronomic offer are not the only things that visitors to the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tennis tournament can enjoy. Between exciting matches and fun they can relax in the Social Arena by the sea.

Social Arena is a place of relaxation and socializing, where you can drink the best Frank food and taste Roxanić wines with an authentic offer of Istrian delicacies from Studenac as well as refresh yourself with ice cream from Ledo.

Ina provides a photo point to give visitors a great memory of socializing overlooking the Stella Marisa Lagoon.



DRAŽEN MIKŠIĆ AND JOSEF RIEGLER ARE THE ITF WHEELCHAIR CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

Tonight, the finals of the ITF Wheelchair Croatia Open Umag by HEP wheelchair doubles were played as part of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. Croatian tennis player Dražen Mikšić and Austrian Josef Riegler defended the 2019 title and defeated the Croatian-Greek duo Ante Joskić and Giorgos Lazaridis 6:4, 6:1.

"We played great, I'm overjoyed and it was a great match. I thank my partner Josef, I believe we will be back next year for a new title!" - said Dražen Mikšić after the match.

The singles final is scheduled for Sunday, and it will feature Josef Riegler against Italian tennis player Ivan Tratter.



JOSEF RIEGLER IS THE WINNER OF ITF WHEELCHAIR CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP

The winner of the second edition of the ITF Wheelchair Croatia Open Umag tournament by HEP is Austrian Josef Riegler. In the final match played at the Stella Maris Resort, Josef defeated Italian Ivan Tratter 6:0, 6:1.

"I am very happy to win here, this is my fourth tournament that I won in Croatia and the feeling is perfect. This is a beautiful tournament, great organization and I

will be happy to return to Umag and play here again!" - said Josef.

This is a double crown for Josef in Umag, since he won the doubles title with Dragan Mikšić yesterday.

ITF Wheelchair Croatia Open Umag by HEP was held as part of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, and it was attended by 16 tennis players from Croatia, Poland, Austria, Italy and Greece.



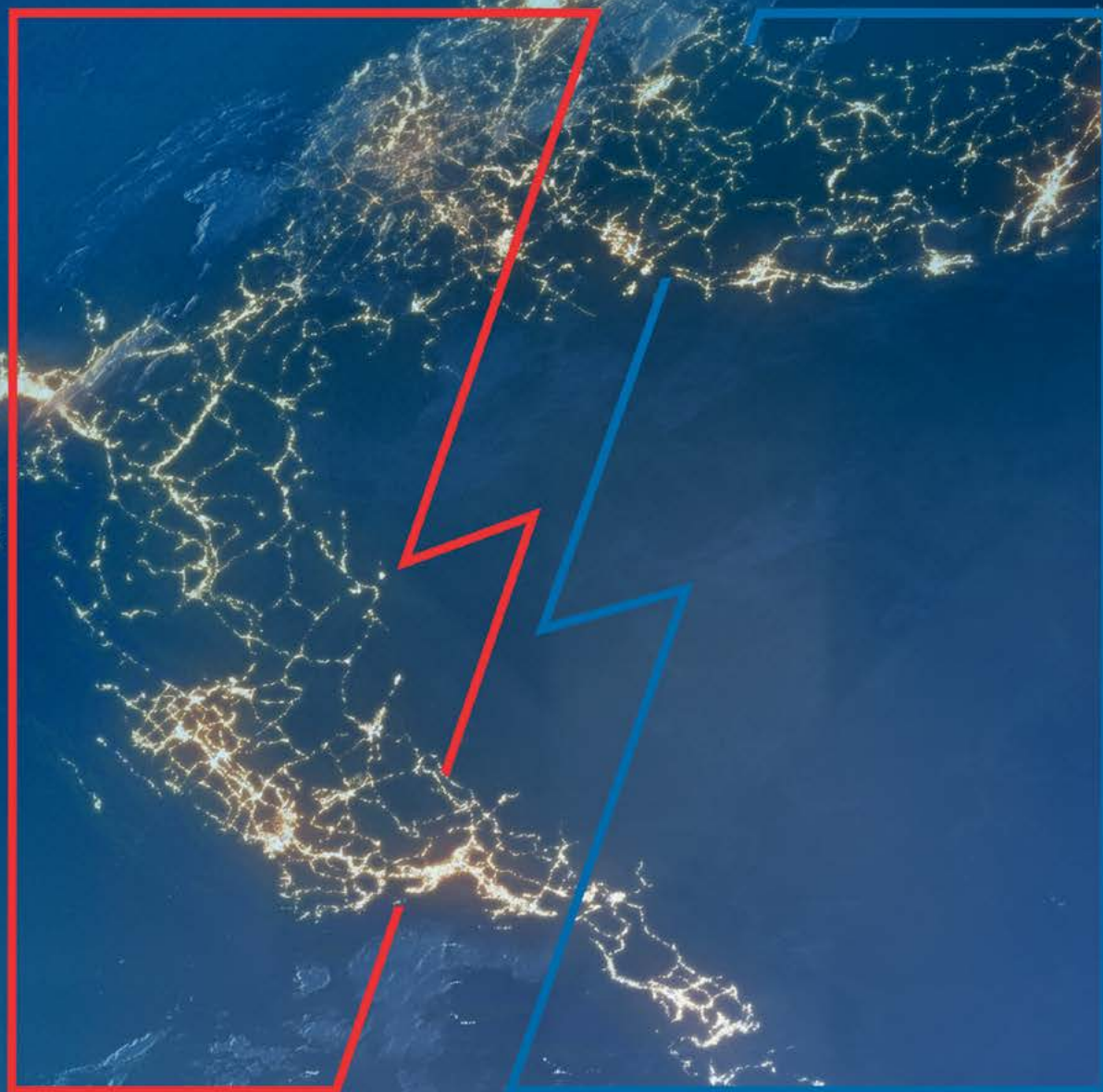
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