

# Presse-Information

Press release • Information de presse

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**ACHEMA 2006**  
**28th International Exhibition-Congress**  
**on Chemical Engineering, Environmental**  
**Protection and Biotechnology**

**Frankfurt/Main, Germany, 15 – 19 May 2006**

**Embargo date: 14 May 2006**

**International press conference: Opening of AICHEMA 2006**  
**Frankfurt am Main, DECHEMA-House**  
**14 May 2006, 11.00 a.m.**

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The spoken word takes precedence.

**Prof. Dr. Gerhard Kreysa**  
Chief Executive of DECHEMA e.V.

## **ACHEMA 2006: Showcase and Innovation Driver for the Process Industry**

- **More exhibitors than in 2003, internationalization on the upswing**
- **Trend-setting impulses for technological developments expected**

This afternoon will see the festive Opening Ceremony of the 28th AICHEMA in the Congress Centre of Messe Frankfurt. It will be attended by the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Dr. Anette Schavan, the Minister of State for Economics, Transport and Development of the State of Hesse, Dr. Alois Rhiel, the Mayoress of the City of Frankfurt, Dr. Petra Roth, and some 2,000 high-ranking international guests. For five days, from Monday until Friday, the doors will be open for visitors to the world's largest exhibition-congress for chemical engineering, environmental protection and biotechnology.

3,880 exhibitors from 50 different countries make this AICHEMA larger than its precursor and the international participation is stronger than ever before. With a total of 44.4 % the proportion of foreign exhibitors has reached its highest level (2003: 40.9 %, 2000: 37.7 %, 1997: 34.2 %). If you take into account the numerous foreign companies represented at AICHEMA by their German subsidiaries, then the share of foreign companies is significantly past the 50 % mark.

With a 1.6 % increase in exhibitors over 2003 and a net exhibition area of 135,514 m<sup>2</sup> in ten exhibition halls and the outdoor area, AICHEMA consolidates its role as the leading international event and unrivalled number one for the process industries. No other event offers such a broad spectrum of total problem solutions covering the entire range

of process technology with the most comprehensive display of equipment, technologies and know-how for the chemical and petrochemical industries, the pharmaceutical and food industries and related branches of the process industries. The exhibitors have already announced the launching of numerous new developments and even several world premières at this ACHEMA, which they will be presenting to visitors in the next few days.

### **Internationalization on the upswing**

This year once again the largest contingent of exhibitors comes from Germany with 2,157 exhibitors, although as a result of mergers and company liquidations a slight drop can be observed (minus 5 %). The number of foreign exhibitors (1,723), however, has increased by 11 %. The country with the second largest group of exhibitors is Italy (266). The third to seventh places are taken by the UK (204 exhibitors), Switzerland (177), the USA (173), France (137) and The Netherlands (104). The strongest growth comes from the Asian region (China: +185 %, South Korea +143 % and India +61 %). Exhibitor numbers were also up significantly for The Netherlands, the USA, Italy, Ireland, Argentina, Brazil and the Russian Federation. Companies from Vietnam, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Croatia will be at the show for the first time this year.

It is now traditional for the largest exhibitor group to be Pumps, Compressors, Valves and Fittings (945 exhibitors), followed by Laboratory and Analytical Equipment (675), Thermal Processes (447), Mechanical Processes (389), Pharmaceutical, Packaging and Storage Techniques (365), Instrumentation, Control and Automation (340) and Engineering (288). The special show "Service Providers for the Process Industries" accounts for the largest increase in exhibitor numbers (31 exhibitors) and floor space. This reflects the new strategic direction in an industry which is making greater use of integrating external service providers into mainstream company operations.

With the "Research and Innovation" exhibition group, numbering 184 exhibitors, ACHEMA offers a highly effective instrument for the transfer of research findings into industrial applications. This group features not only university institutes and publicly financed research centres, but also private research companies. This exhibition group receives special financial support, the stand area being provided at no charge. In addition, the voluntary contributions from exhibitors and visitors go towards the Max Buchner Research Foundation which awards around 50 scholarships for application-oriented basic research annually.

### **ACHEMA Congress highlights innovation**

Sharing information with potential users and customers at an early stage is an essential step in the process of turning outstanding research results into innovative products. This year's ACHEMA Congress features over 900 lectures, making it a bigger event than any of its predecessors. Besides the latest products and trends exhibited in all the exhibition groups, the Congress Programme features a special series of talks on cutting-edge R&D developments in the process industries (chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, food, power generation, etc.). Topics include microreaction technology, nanotechnology, membrane technology, the use of alternative solvents, industrial biotechnology and advanced intelligence in process machinery and systems. Moreover numerous lectures and discussions focus on responsible and economic use of water, air and energy resources and renewable or recyclable raw materials.

### **ACHEMA Worldwide Economic Forums: spotlight on China and the Middle East**

ACHEMA offers its international visitors an ideal platform for new contacts and cooperation opportunities. Two ACHEMA worldwide business forums will take a closer look at the particular dynamics of the rapidly growing economies in China and the Arab World. Industry experts will provide a first-hand perspective on the following topics:

- “China on the verge to an innovation super power” (16 May) and
  - “The Middle East – upcoming hot spot for the world’s process industry” (17 May).
- In addition, this year’s traditional “India Day Seminar” (16 May) focuses on cooperations in the area of pharmaceutical technology.

### **World leader in integrated environmental protection and industrial biotechnology**

Environmental protection and biotechnology have traditionally been integral general topics atACHEMA, which cut across all exhibitors groups. 979 exhibitors from the field of environmental protection and 991 from biotechnological equipment makeACHEMA the world’s leading event for product- and production-integrated environmental protection and for equipment, processes and services in the biotechnology sector. One in three visitors toACHEMA is primarily interested in environmental protection, and there is a similar level of interest in biotechnology.

Industrial Biotechnology is one of the latest challenges for the process industries. A partnering conference with participation by international research institutions and companies focusing on “Industrial Biotechnology” reflects its growing importance. The main items on the agenda will be the latest R&D results, new products, services and bio business. An ambitious workshop programme will focus on worldwide perspectives for industrial biotechnology and take a closer look at the high-growth markets in China, India, Eastern Europe, Japan and the USA. Participants will discuss their international experience and incentive programs which are intended to reinforce the formation of networks for this branch.

### **Raising the profile of automation**

The growing importance of automation systems in the process industries – from the chemical industry to biotechnology and environmental protection – has prompted NAMUR (user association for automation in process industries) to raise the profile of automation technology atACHEMA. The introduction of expert forums with around 20 panels in Hall 10.1 in close proximity to the exhibitors will add an additional dimension to this year’s event. The focus will be on specific issues from the field of instrumentation, process control and automation techniques, to operations management, process engineering, communications, explosion protection and measurement systems. The “European Network of Innovation Relay Centres”, another new feature ofACHEMA, will promote partnering between R&D organizations throughout Europe.

### **Mood of optimism in the run-up toACHEMA**

The economy is booming, the mood is optimistic and never before was anACHEMA so international as now. It’s no wonder that the hopes and expectations of exhibitors and visitors toACHEMA are correspondingly high. Experts and decision-makers from all over the world will make the most of this unique innovation showcase, the discussions directly in front of the exhibits and the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and information between science and technology, in particular for future business developments and subsequent investment decisions.

DECHEMA, the organizer, anticipates a strong response from its international visitors and a perceptible surge of innovations in all areas of chemical engineering, environmental protection and biotechnology.

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