

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 am Main, Germany
May 15 – 19, 2006

Economic Press Conference
Frankfurt am Main, DECHEMA-Haus
April 4, 2006, 10 a.m.

The spoken word takes precedence.

Gerhard Kreysa
CEO of DECHEMA e.V., Frankfurt am Main

ACHEMA 2006 – World Forum for the Process Industries

- Exhibitors numbers up from 2003, more international participation than ever
- Exhibitors and visitors are optimistic

The final preparations for AICHEMA 2006, which will be held from May 15 – 19 at the Frankfurt exhibition grounds, are now running at full steam. The number of exhibitor registrations now exceeds the comparable figure for 2003, and we remain optimistic that the final tally will exceed the number of exhibitors who were at the event in 2003 (3,819 exhibitors). By April 1, 3,789 exhibitors from 48 countries had made firm bookings for 134,761 m² of net exhibition space. A number of contracts, particularly from co-exhibitors, are still outstanding.

ACHEMA is the leading international event for the entire material conversion industry, and this year's show will once again showcase a huge range of equipment, technologies and know-how for the chemical, petrochemical, pharmaceutical and food industries and other related sectors. No other event offers such a comprehensive display of total problem solutions covering all aspects of process technology combined with the synergy effects which result from interaction between the different exhibitor groups.

As usual, the largest exhibitor groups will be pumps, compressors, valves and fittings (939 exhibitors) followed by laboratory and analytical equipment (665), thermal processes (432), mechanical processes (382), pharmaceutical, packaging and storage (335), instrumentation, control and automation (333) and engineering (278). The special show "Service Providers for the Process Industries" accounts for the largest increase in exhibitor numbers and floor space. This reflects the new strategic direction in an industry which is making greater use of

holistic solutions and integration of external service providers into mainstream company operations.

The encouraging OECD economic outlook and news that the Ifo Business Climate Index last week reached its highest level in 15 years will be welcomed by exhibitors and visitors at this year's ACHEMA. Experts and decision makers from around the world give high ratings to this innovation event. Discussions on the exhibition floor, interdisciplinary exchange of information between the scientific and engineering communities and subsequent investment decisions are all perceived to make an important contribution to the success of the industry. The level of interest on the part of exhibitors and visitors from around the world remains high.

International participation continues to grow

The level of foreign participation (43.9 % as of April 1, 2006) exceeds the figure for all previous events (2003: 40.9 %, 2000: 37.7 %). If you include the many foreign companies which are represented at ACHEMA by their German subsidiaries, then the percentage of foreign companies at the show is probably around 50%.

The percentage of foreign companies already exceeds 50% in some exhibitor groups including laboratory and analytical equipment, thermal processes and pharmaceutical, packaging and storage.

The largest exhibitor contingents come from Germany (2,124 exhibitors), Italy (261), the UK (196), Switzerland (172), the USA (171), France (134) and The Netherlands (100). There has been a further decrease in the number of German exhibitors as a result of company liquidations, mergers and acquisitions. The exhibitor contingents from the Asian regions show the strongest growth (China: +175 %, South Korea +143 % and India +59 %). Exhibitor numbers were also up significantly for The Netherlands, the USA, Italy, Ireland, Argentina and the Russian Federation. Companies from Vietnam, the UAE and Croatia will be at the show for the first time this year.

ACHEMA Congress puts the spotlight on 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 will feature more than 900 talks, and it will be bigger than any of the previous events. Visitors will have the opportunity to hear about the latest products and trends in all of the exhibitors groups, and there will be a special series of talks on the latest R&D developments in the process industries (chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, food, power generation, etc.). The rapid pace of development bodes well for the future of the industry. Topics will include microreaction technology, nanotechnology, the use of alternative solvents, applied biotechnology, advanced intelligence in process machinery and systems, responsible and economic use of water, air and energy resources and renewable or recyclable raw materials.

The program will include high-profile podium discussions on difficult macroeconomic and social issues such as "Trade in Certificates – an Assessment from the Perspective of the Chemical Industry", "REACH – Chemical Regulation in Europe", "Elite Universities – Vision and Reality" and the question of what happens at the end of the oil age – "Across the Petrochemical Frontier".

Integrated environment protection and applied biotechnology

Environmental protection and biotechnology have traditionally been common themes at ACHEMA, which cut across all exhibitors groups. 943 exhibitors from the field of environmental protection and 933 from biotechnology make ACHEMA the world's largest event for product and production integrated environmental protection and equipment, processes and services in the biotechnology sector. One in three visitors to ACHEMA is primarily interested in environmental protection, and there is a similar level of interest in biotechnology.

A two-day partnering conference with participation by international research institutions and companies focusing on “Industrial Biotechnology” reflects the growing importance of industrial (“white”) biotechnology. The main items on the agenda will be the latest R&D results, new products, services and the bio business. A large number of workshops will focus on worldwide opportunities for biotechnology and take a closer look at the high-growth markets in China, Eastern Europe, India, Japan and the US. Participants will discuss international incentive programs which are intended to reinforce the formation of industry networks.

Raising the profile of automation

The growing importance of automation systems in the process industries including chemicals, biotechnology and environmental protection has prompted NAMUR (standardization association for measurement and control in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries) to increase the emphasis on automation technology atACHEMA. The introduction of expert forums with around 20 panels in Hall 10.1 in close proximity to the exhibition space will add an additional dimension to this year’s event. Topics will include specific issues from the field of instrumentation, process control, 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 all across Europe.

ACHEMA worldwide business forums: focusing on China and the Middle East

The opportunities and risks in today’s business world are heavily influenced by developments in the global economy. TwoACHEMA 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” (May 16) and
- “The Middle East – upcoming hot spot for the world’s process industry” (May 17).

Enhancing the fair experience

The electronic visitor service, which can be accessed at www.achema.de, now offers an even greater range of user-friendly services. Visitors can decide before they travel which exhibits and new products they want to see first hand, and they can select which of the more than 900 talks and discussion forums at the Congress they would like to attend. The bestACHEMA planning aid ever will be fully available at the beginning of April.

The great new features of this service add a whole new dimension to the fair planning experience. An online version of the printed brochure is now available for browsing. Users can search the Congress database by topic or author, and they can conduct free-text searches in the abstracts. This user-friendly feature provides access to information on more than 900 Congress talks. The new online version of the WOICE ofACHEMA (World Catalogue of International Chemical Equipment) database is available free of charge from now until the end ofACHEMA. Visitors can access user-friendly search functions, thousands of keywords, editable hit lists and sorting options to help them plan their visit toACHEMA.

www.achema.de