

Presse-Information

Press release • Information de presse

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Dr. Michael Thiemann
Chairman of the ACHEMA Committee
and
Chairman of the Executive Board of ThyssenKrupp Uhde GmbH

On behalf of all the companies exhibiting at ACHEMA 2012, it gives me great pleasure, as the Chairman of the ACHEMA Committee, to welcome you to our Press Reception today. One day before the exhibition halls open one thing is certain: this ACHEMA will fit seamlessly into the series of successful ACHEMAs of the last few years. The world's leading event of the process industries is once again set to showcase a complete cross-section of process engineering under one roof, attracting experts and decision-makers, thought leaders, drivers and players from all sectors and all countries to Frankfurt.

Regarding the exhibition, it is particularly gratifying that this ACHEMA can boast a 2 % increase in exhibition space. This means that ACHEMA 2012 is not only bigger than ACHEMA 2009, but also slightly more so than ACHEMA 2006. In other words: the process industry's optimism is tangible! And I am not only speaking for plant engineering, the branch I am most closely connected with, but for all the branches taking part in ACHEMA!

Of all the ACHEMA exhibition groups, two have achieved impressive growth rates: Instrumentation, Control and Automation Techniques and Pharmaceutical, Packaging and Storage Techniques. Both groups promptly snapped up the expansion potential offered by the new hall 11 together with the resulting optimized hall layout.

The stable demand trend in the two largest exhibition groups – Pumps, Compressors and Valves and Fittings and Laboratory and Analytical Techniques – is similarly gratifying. The record total of over 1,000 exhibitors makes the former group the largest pump exhibition worldwide! And the latter still tops its previous level despite the fact that ACHEMA again coincides with Analytica in 2012. The demand in other core areas of ACHEMA, such as Thermal and Mechanical Processes, is also on an even keel, and if you stroll through the exhibition grounds this afternoon or tomorrow, what will strike you is that ACHEMA presents a comprehensive overview of every sector.

In addition, with a proportion of around 50 % of exhibitors from abroad, ACHEMA 2012 will be even more international than all of its predecessors. The reason is undoubtedly the progressive

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internationalization of our industry with the emergence of new gravitational centres in Asia, the Middle-East and Latin America. This development is reflected by ACHEMA, and this in turn underscores the strategic importance of ACHEMA as the flagship event of the process industry.

A comparison of the different countries by exhibitors reveals that China and India once again record double-digit growth rates, each with a contingent of well over 100 exhibitors – in the case of China, even over 200 exhibitors. Moreover countries like South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey and our eastern neighbours, Poland and the Czech Republic, also show significant growth.

On the visitor side, given the countless registrations by visitor groups from all four corners of the earth, we have good reason to conclude that ACHEMA will be no less internationally positioned. The organizers are optimistic that the final visitor figures may well exceed those for the last ACHEMA. At least for the week ahead, Frankfurt will be the global capital of the chemical and process industries!

With this year's focus topic 'Innovative Energy Carriers and Storage', DECHEMA has undoubtedly struck the nerve of the times – if the resounding response and the number of registrations for this afternoon's Opening Session are anything to go by. Together with "Energy Efficiency" and the previous focus topic "Renewable Resources and Energy Carriers", this opens up tremendous business opportunities for the process industry whose unrivalled interdisciplinary know-how is predestined to generate innovations in this field.

Another core theme of ACHEMA goes under the heading of "BiobasedWorld at ACHEMA". This theme stands for technologies, products and services covering the whole gamut of the bio-based value chain, including biomass, bio-based chemicals, fuels and products. More than 700 exhibitors are represented by this topic, and it requires no prophetic powers to predict that it has tremendous potential to effect a fundamental shift in our industrial society.

Every now and then, the question arises as to what technological innovation will leave its mark on this particular ACHEMA. May I just state categorically: there is no such thing as one, single - revolutionary - innovation for our industry! The reason is that process technology is so complex that it is based on the effective interaction of many components. Therefore, you will see evolutions rather than revolutions – and the number will surprise you.

Allow me to outline a few developments, which are by no means exhaustive. I will start with my own industry, plant engineering:

- Plants are becoming both larger – the key words being 'megaplants' and 'world scale', especially for bulk chemicals production – and smaller, the key words being 'micro process engineering' and 'single-use technologies'. Modular concepts, aiming at flexible application for different purposes, and increasing automation are rapidly gaining ground.
- Pumps, Compressors, Valves and Fittings – if you take a look at ACHEMA's press pages, you will find the succinct headline "Under the emblem of energy intelligence". I think this exactly describes where

we are going with these components which account for an estimated 20% of global electricity production.

- In Laboratory and Analytical technology the trend has long since –not just since this AICHEMA - been towards faster and more efficient processes. Flexibilization, miniaturization, automation, parallelization and sequencing are key words that were once the themes of special shows at AICHEMA, but have long since become mainstream.
- The expansion of the exhibition group Instrumentation, Control and Automation Techniques, referred to earlier, can certainly not be put down to the new hall, but is evidence of the fact that automation technology has penetrated almost all areas of the process industry. Besides the display in Hall 11, I would like to draw your attention to the panel discussions “Automation Dialog”, organized jointly by NAMUR, ZVEI und ARC and focusing on current issues.
- Even before Stuxnet and other cyber attacks, IT Security has been one of the top issues challenging the expertise and creativity of the process industry.
- Thermal and Mechanical Processes are at home at AICHEMA like nowhere else. This is where the course is set for the technological realization of the bio-based value chain.
- AICHEMA is also the world’s leading event for Pharmaceutical, Packaging and Storage Techniques. In pharmaceutical production, we can observe the ongoing integration of former downstream steps, such as quality control or labelling, into the production process.

At this year’s AICHEMA, technological innovation is accompanied by a range of innovative events geared to catalysing an exchange of ideas and information among all participants. First and foremost, there is our AICHEMA Partnering Platform, enabling exhibitors and visitors to identify matching fields of interest. Other new attractions include the Technology Transfer Days, where market-ready products are presented, or the Venture Capital Day, which functions as a knowledge-sharing marketplace for potential investors. Our ‘European Conference on the Bioeconomy’ will highlight the biotech scene from a cross-functional, political perspective, the main focus being on a socio-political framework for the biotech sector.

Besides the traditional core theme of China, this time our well-established AICHEMAworldwide Business Forum focuses on Azerbaijan, a country that is arguably a relative newcomer to the established chemical producing nations. This is likely to make it extremely interesting to a number of our exhibitors. These event series cluster around our traditional Congress programme featuring 900 lectures packed into every available time and space slot in the tight Congress schedule. The Congress is supplemented by numerous prestigious, international guest and accompanying events that highlight the networking character of AICHEMA.

Once again we offer a special attraction for our younger colleagues, the jobvector career day, focusing on the first steps on the career ladder. And last, but not least, the AICHEMA Study Courses, the programme for pupils, students and teachers, offering our clients and participants of tomorrow a chance to familiarise themselves with process engineering at first hand today.

Admittedly, all this can only just capture the essence of what awaits you at ACHEMA. It gives me great pleasure to invite you to experience it all for yourselves on the spot.

Thank you for your attention!