

# Presse-Information

Press release • Information de presse

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**ACHEMA 2009**  
**29th International Exhibition-Congress**  
**on Chemical Engineering, Environmental**  
**Protection and Biotechnology**

**Frankfurt am Main, 11 - 15 May 2009**

**Economic Press Conference**  
**Frankfurt am Main, DECHEMA House**  
**1 April 2009, 10.00 am**

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Check against delivery.

**Prof. Dr. Gerhard Kreysa**  
Chief Executive of DECHEMA e.V., Frankfurt am Main

## **ACHEMA 2009 – Global exchange on global issues**

- **Interest of exhibitors and visitors still undiminished**
- **International exchange intensified**
- **Comprehensive practice-oriented programme**

“And how’s ACHEMA coming along?” That is a question I have often had to answer in the past few months – and I am certain it is also one of the main reasons that has brought you here today. Quite understandably, since the economic situation and the forecasts leave no-one cold. It gives me all the more pleasure to be in a position to reply: “ACHEMA’s coming along fine, thank you.” On Monday this week, the number of firm exhibitor bookings was 3,694 , which means that it is almost on a par with 2006. 134,000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition area are occupied, nearly the same figure as at the last ACHEMA. Despite the difficult attendant circumstances it is gratifying to note that our exhibitors have maintained their loyalty, for which we are extremely grateful. ACHEMA will not disappoint this vote of confidence and will continue to provide vital impulses to the branches involved - from the chemical industry to the pharmaceutical and food industries, to biotechnology, through to energy production.

### **International exchange is mutual**

ACHEMA’s appeal extends far beyond Germany and Europe: the figures for international exhibitors speak for the internationalization of our industries. In 2006 44 % of exhibitors

came from abroad, this year, however, we anticipate 46 %. After Germany, the strongest contingents come from Italy (296 exhibitors), the UK (200 exhibitors), Switzerland (161 exhibitors), the USA (150 exhibitors) and France (122 exhibitors). Not only the absolute figures are interesting, however, but the increases compared with the lastACHEMA events: here China, whose exhibitors have increased from 57 to 118, tops the league, ahead of India (from 87 to 102 exhibitors) and, on a lower level, Poland, represented by 23 exhibitors compared with 14 in 2006. This is an indication that these countries have made a great leap forward from being merely the extended workbench of the West to autonomous players who themselves come up with innovations. This should not only be regarded as a threat in view of the increasing competition, but as an opportunity for productive exchange, to which the emerging countries, with their hunger for development, their own experience and backgrounds and their huge potential of well educated scientists and technicians, can make an impressive contribution. This should not intimidate us, on the contrary, we should make the most of this opportunity.

### **Entire spectrum of the process industries**

It is only possible to form an impression of the entire spectrum ofACHEMA by taking a look at the list of exhibition groups. It is traditional for Pumps, Compressors, Valves and Fittings to be the largest group, and that also holds for 2009. This group is followed by Laboratory and Analytical Techniques, Mechanical and Thermal Processes, and by Pharmaceutical, Packaging and Storage Techniques. If you are planning a plant, you will find all you need atACHEMA - from the whole process down to a single valve, from control technology to analytical techniques, and everything is state-of-the-art. The General Topics, which have set the tone ofACHEMA for three decades, have lost none of their relevance; on the contrary, those wishing to obtain information on Biotechnological Equipment and Environmental Protection will discover about 1,000 exhibitors involved in each of these areas. The theme of this year's Special Show "Chemistry and Biotechnology for Renewable Resources and Energy" covers both.

### **Special Show pools competence and reveals important development branch**

A special area is devoted to the Special Show which brings together exhibitors who present established technologies and also processes in the development phase. The processing of renewable resources, biopolymers, solar-chemical processes, energy storage and photovoltaics are represented here, among others. As this involves a General Topic, the equipment and processes applied in processing renewable resources can be found on many different stands throughout all the halls. The Special Show acts like a burning glass, attracting attention to a recurrent theme in the whole exhibition.

### **Optimism vis-à-vis visitor numbers**

"And what about the visitors?" This question invariably follows the one about exhibitors. Well, since we aren't clairvoyant, we are as reliant on circumstantial evidence as the next person when we risk making a prediction. The evidence is positive, however, across the board. In the run-up toACHEMA, registrations for season tickets and the visa applications of foreign participants are measurable, and both are in a satisfactory range. The new system, whereby

exhibitors who pay a flat rate for tickets have access to an unlimited quantity, is taking effect: many exhibitors have evidently made visitor promotion a priority, mailing out tickets with their printed matter or offering orders via the Internet. We can assume that exhibitors have a clear idea of who they would like to see at ACHEMA, even tapping target groups that we have perhaps hitherto not reached. In this respect, we anticipate a high number of visitors.

### **The ACHEMA Congress: practical relevance counts**

With more than 900 lectures the ACHEMA Congress is on the same scale as the last time. There has been no lack of possibilities to make it even more extensive – the response was so great that we had to open a waiting list for lectures. As the organizer, however, we made a conscious decision to limit the number of parallel sessions to 18; it must after all be possible for visitors to keep it all in perspective and to plan their days accordingly. That is admittedly difficult enough, since the number of interesting topics is overwhelming. In the framework of ACHEMA, among other features, we are hosting one of the biggest nanotechnology events in Europe this year. There are several sessions on process intensification with themes ranging from an individual component to an overall concept. We focus on biotechnology and materials, on waste prevention and formulation technology, on laboratory and analytical techniques and ionic liquids – and all this is to a high scientific standard and, which I cannot emphasize enough, of great practical relevance.

### **Socially relevant topics under discussion**

ACHEMA is no more an island than our industries are. It is our duty to question and to repeatedly explain what we do and what impacts our activities have. ACHEMA takes into account the social relevance of our actions, for instance by panel discussions and plenary lectures on topics of general interest. High-ranking representatives from politics, industry and science use this opportunity to present their views on issues, such as green gene technology, the future energy supply and conditions at universities, to the public.

### **Partner and guest events round off the programme**

A further instance supports the proposition that ACHEMA does not exist in isolation. The core content of the programme, consisting of the exhibition and the congress, is supplemented by numerous guest and cooperation events.

As in 2006, there is keen interest in the NAMUR Expert Round Tables in Hall 10. From midday on Monday to midday on Friday experts will discuss cutting-edge topics from the field of instrumentation, control and automation technologies around the theme "Automation in Dialogue". It is gratifying that NAMUR regards ACHEMA as the leading event of the automation branch and that the cooperation works out so excellently.

Practical relevance and biotechnology – the "Industrial Biotechnology Exhibition and Partnering Conference" unites these two important ACHEMA keywords. On 12 and 13 May 2009, national and international research institutions and companies will present application-oriented, market-ready products and services and will use this chance to acquire cooperation partners.

Internationality does not just mean that we welcome foreign guests, but rather that we ourselves focus on the outside world. This is the rationale for the ACHEMA worldwide Economic

Forum. On 12 May the topic under discussion will be the burning issue "China's energy strategy and perspectives". On 13 May we won't be looking quite so far afield, but will inform the audience about "Sustainable chemical engineering made in France".

Admittedly, this is only a brief selection of the many accompanying conferences and lectures; a detailed overview is given in the ACHEMA Programme in print or on the Internet.

### **Easy-to-access information options**

This brings me to a further point: given the huge range on offer, how can a visitor plan a meaningful schedule for ACHEMA? To start off with, to obtain an overview there is the printed programme which is not just limited to the everyday activities, but also features the attractive social programme. Those searching for specific topics, exhibitors or speakers will find what they are looking for on the Internet: [www.achema.de](http://www.achema.de) has user-friendly search functions. PDA and mobile phone users have access to a special Internet platform. Here the route-planner is an effective means of finding one's way about ACHEMA. For those requiring more detailed information about products or potential cooperation partners, I can recommend taking a look at the WOICE database. It has been activated since March and offers a wealth of information about all exhibitors and other companies and institutions to all who are interested. Those who would like to continue using the WOICE database after ACHEMA can then subscribe to it – or simply become a member of DECHEMA, as the WOICE database is included in the membership fee.

Two clearly structured publications for offline use, the Catalogue and the Handbook New Developments, will be published in good time for ACHEMA. They are ideal for browsing through during a coffee break!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the organizer, we have left no stone unturned in order to make ACHEMA a high-quality, worthwhile event to visit for all concerned. Please bear with me for a minute while I run through a mind game with you. Let us assume that every exhibitor and every visitor takes home just one idea from ACHEMA – a solution to a separation problem, information about a component that exactly fulfils his requirements, or a telephone number of a potential cooperation partner. Let us further assume that only half of these ideas are seriously followed up, and again that only half of them lead to an actual result:

We would end up with tens of thousands of solutions and innovations. If each one represented just a tiny step forwards – then ACHEMA would be the starting point of a long road ahead.

**[www.achema.de](http://www.achema.de)**