



A participant in the RoboCup German Open 2007 preps for the competition. (Image provided by Deutsche Messe).

Tapping Into Technology AT HANNOVER 2008

It's safe to say Hannover Fair 2008 is big, and we're not just talking square feet or the number of exhibitors/attendees. Even the promotional brochure is a thick 35 pages. Each year professionals from 57 countries converge in Germany for technical presentations, networking possibilities and a chance to catch up on the latest market trends, innovations and business developments in the field of industrial technology.

"The energy and automation exhibits have increased in both size and scope in 2008, with a focus on climate protection, power stations and mobile robotics," says Katja Havemeister, press officer at Hannover.

One of the highlights will be the Partner Country presentation in which representatives from Japan will discuss innovations in robotics, micro- and nanotechnologies, environmental and energy technology, biotechnology and life science. A German/Japanese summit will bring senior politicians and business leaders together to discuss their specific roles in these various fields.

A presentation entitled "TectoYou," returns this year specifically targeted at students. During last year's fair, 23,500 school children participated in the event, which encourages kids to consider a career in technology.

Accompanying the energy exhibit

this year is the World Energy Dialogue, a forum for energy experts to discuss the demand for energy in growth markets such as China and India.

"The World Energy Dialogue provides an opportunity for knowledge and opinion sharing on the subject of climate-friendly, energy efficient power plant technologies," says Sepp D. Heckmann, chairman of the managing board at Hannover.

Power Plant Technology is a new flagship exhibition that gives the power plant industry a platform for the latest developments in engineering. Themes include large-scale power station construction, decentralized industrial

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power plants and all the peripheral technologies and services.

"By choosing to focus on key themes of energy and automation this year," says Dietmar Harting, chairman of the exhibitor's advisory committee, "Hannover proves once again it has its finger on the pulse of technology. We're fully behind this strategy and plan to give the global public answers

to questions on climate protection and energy efficiency."

A new presentation entitled "Mobile Robots & Autonomous Systems" showcases the rising demand for robots in three target groups in the industrial, public and private sector. The mobile robots presentation focuses on the use of robotics in everything from transportation systems and inspection

to lawn mowing and cleaning. The international RoboCup German Open, a fun sporting competition on robotic technology, will once again take place in the mobile robotics hall.

For the 5th time in Hannover history, a company will win the Hermes Award, an international technology prize that highlights groundbreaking innovations and solutions tested by industry professionals. The award is limited to products that are on display for the very first time at Hannover in 2008. In 2007, the award was jointly won by Bayer Technology Services in Germany and Ingenia Technology Ltd. in London.

Hannover Fair takes place from April 21-25 at the fairgrounds in Hannover, Germany. More than 200,000 industry professionals will attend the 10 flagship international trade shows that make up the event. Exhibitors have the opportunity to launch new products, meet face to face with customers, establish distribution channels and generate brand awareness. The 10 flagship trade fairs for 2008 include factory automation, process automation, industrial building automation, digital factory, subcontracting, energy, power plant technology, pipeline technology, micro technology and research and technology. For registration and contact information, call (609) 987-1202 or visit www.hf-usa.com.

Images provided by Deutsche Messe.



The "TechtoYou" program in 2007 featured a host of events for budding engineers.



Power Plant technology is now a flagship exhibition at Hannover.

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CALENDAR

March 31-April 3—WESTEC 2008 Exposition and Conference.

Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles. With a focus on technology and professional advancement, WESTEC offers free educational programs including sessions on comparative technologies, lean principles and business management strategies in manufacturing. This year's conference features a back-to-basics program offering pathways to manufacturing careers. The Society of Manufacturing Engineers sponsors the event. For more information, contact the SME resource center at service@sme.org.

March 31-April 4—METAV 2008.

Düsseldorf, Germany. This trade fair highlighting manufacturing and automation covers the entire scope of machine tools, precision tools, automation components and systems. Exhibitors and visitors can share information, discuss industry trends and network for job opportunities. The international symposium this year will focus on energy efficiency in production. For more information, visit www.metav.messe-duesseldorf.de.

April 2-4—AGMA's Gear Manufacturing Technology Course.

Hoffman Estates, IL. Offered by the Gear Consulting Group, this course will run participants through practical aspects of gear manufacturing. The course will be instructed by Geoff Ashcroft and Ron Green. Topics include gear theory, inspection, manufacturing, hobbing, shaping, estimations, hard finishing and gear shaving. Tuition for the three-day course is \$750 per person and includes all necessary materials, AGMA reference manual and a certificate of completion. For more information, contact Gear Consulting Group at (269) 623-4993.

April 4-13—SIMTOS 2008

Korea International Exhibition Center (KINTEX), Seoul. The 13th Annual Seoul International Machine Tool Show 2008

will include an estimated 500 companies with 3,500 exhibition booths. Companies will discuss the latest trends and display new brand designs for the global machine tool market. More than 70,000 visitors from 30 countries participated in the 2007 exhibition. The event is organized by the Korea Machine Tool Manufacturers Association. For more information, visit www.simtos.org.

April 14-17—SAE 2008 World Congress.

Cobo Center, Detroit. Geared toward sharpening the skills of budding automotive engineers and training managers, the SAE 2008 World Congress includes 1,500 technical papers on topics such as propulsion and powertrain, electronics, materials, emissions and environment, management and marketplace, and safety and testing. The congress offers 40 SAE seminars, a global exhibition show floor, a technology pavilion and an international booth. Attendees represent fields in engineering, management, purchasing, manufacturing, military, academia and research in automobile technology. Sessions new to the 2008 program include "Designing On-Board Diagnostics for Light- and Medium-Duty Emissions Control Systems," "High-Performance Engine Design and Development," "Automotive Product Lifecycle Management" and many others. For registration and contact information, call (877) 606-7323 or visit www.sea.org/seminarinfo.

April 22-25—Control: International Trade Fair for Quality Assurance

Stuttgart, Germany. Control is the world's only trade fair focusing strictly on quality assurance. Companies exhibit new products, systems and solutions in measuring technology, material testing, analysis and optoelectronics. The trade fair presents updated hardware and software tools for the manufacturing sector. It assists companies in maintaining higher manufacturing and quality requirements at all production facilities. Advances in automotive, communications and microsystems technologies will be

discussed. For more information, visit www.control-messe.com.

May 5-7—Intertech 2008

Contemporary Resort, Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL. Designed to provide a blend of technical and commercial topics, Intertech 2008 hosts global superabrasive suppliers, toolmakers, research organizations and end users to reach professionals involved in all aspects of machining, grinding, drilling, sawing, texturing, polishing, wear parts, and wire dies. The 2008 conference primarily focuses on increased productivity, new technological developments and ways to reduce business costs. For more information, contact Intertech 2008 at www.intertechconference.com.

May 13-15—Porous Materials, Inc. Short Course

Ithaca, NY. "Advanced Techniques for Pore Structure Characterization; Theory and Practice" will cover the basic principles, current practices and critical assessments of pore structure characterization. The course includes three days of informative lectures as well as hands-on demonstrations in their testing laboratory. Interested participants are encouraged to bring samples with them for testing. Attendance is flexible, from one to three days. For registration information, contact Dr. Krishna Gupta at (607) 257-5544 or info@pmiapp.com.

May 20-22—EASTEC 2008 Advanced Productivity Exposition.

West Springfield, MA. 14,000 manufacturers, plant managers, and shop owners visit EASTEC to evaluate advanced technologies, production methods and management concepts. From the latest machine tools to lean strategies, the exposition keeps the East Coast manufacturing community up-to-date on the competition. The Society of Manufacturing Engineers sponsors the event. For more information, call (800) 733-4763 or contact the SME resource center at service@sme.org.