

Review

VISION 2007: 32% More Exhibitors

Stuttgart (at) – VISION, the international trade fair for machine vision and identification technologies, once again confirmed its position as the world's most important platform for the machine vision industry. Around 6,000 visitors (2006: 5,293), i.e. 13% more than last year, came to the trade fair in Stuttgart. VISION was held for the first time in the halls of the New Stuttgart Trade Fair Centre. This allowed for a strong growth in the number of exhibitors: The number shot up this year by 31% and now stands at 281 (2006: 214). 42% of exhibitors came from abroad and 27 countries were represented. The total gross exhibition space increased by 11% to 15,000 square meters.

Just like in 2006, the proportion of visitors from abroad was 32%. Most of these came from Europe while 1 in 4 traveled to Stuttgart from Asia. The majority of visitors were employed in the electrical engineering, electronics, mechanical engineering and car industries. All these industries rank among the main customers for machine vision. Visitors were primarily interested in machine vision components followed by machine vision systems and applications, and services.

Exhibitors were delighted to see that 91% of visitors were closely involved or played a role in purchasing and procurement decisions in their company.

In addition to the German Engineering Federation (VDMA), the supporters of VISION include the international machine vision association, Automated Imaging Association (AIA), whose head office is in the USA, and the European Machine Vision Association, located in Frankfurt. This is an indication of the worldwide importance and international recognition of this machine vision trade fair.

After the available hall space for VISION 2007 was again completely booked straightaway, more space will be provided next year. "We have reserved Halls 4 and 6 for 2008 as there are already indications that we will need additional capacities. A large number of exhibitors have already booked for 2008 and some of them want a larger exhibition stand", said a delighted Sandy Zorn, VISION Team Leader.

More than 2,600 visitors again showed an interest in the "Industrial VISION Days", a series of talks organized by the Machine Vision Group of the German Engineering



Federation (VDMA). They used these free talks (held in German and English) to find problem solutions and forge contacts with the participating machine vision experts. VISION 2008 will also be held in the halls of the New Stuttgart Trade Fair Centre from November 4–6, 2008.

www.vision-messe.de

Review

ECOC 2008: Optics Back on the Telecoms Agenda

Berlin (at) On September 20th, the doors closed on the 33rd European Conference and Exhibition on Optical Communications (ECOC) with optics once again back on the agenda of the global communications market. Nearly 6,000 visitors attended the event – an increase of 20% on last year's event and more than any ECOC since the height of the telecoms industry in 2000. The exhibition, sold out for the first time since the market crash, saw a record 360 global players displaying the latest in optical technology, ranging from components to systems. On the show floor, the 2nd Market Focus program included speakers from BT, Heavy Reading, Ericsson and JDSU and discussed the future technological and market drivers shaping the future of the industry.

The Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) pavilion demonstrated the findings from their latest project On-Demand Ethernet Services, exclusively to the ECOC audience, showcasing multi-vendor interoperability in a multi-carrier environment from seven of the world's largest telecommunications operators. The FTTx pavilion displayed the future of FTTx technology, including live demonstrations of the latest technological advances.

"The exhibition has seen a flurry of new activity including new initiatives launched by others and ourselves in order to compliment the exhibitor's technology," said ECOC Exhibition Marketing Manager, Simon Kears. "The event has evolved into an optical communications experience whereby all attendees are able to get hands

on with the very latest technology either through free training courses, live demonstrations or product presentations." ECOC 2008 will be held at The Brussels Expo Centre in Belgium. The Conference will be held from September 21–25 and the exhibition from September 22–24, 2008.



www.ecocexhibition2007.com

www.ecoc2008.org

Preview

SPIE Photonics Europe 2008 in Strasbourg



Strasbourg (F) – SPIE Europe is organizing its next Photonics Europe event in Strasbourg, France. The conference will be held in the Palais de la Musique et des Congrès from April 7 to 11, with the accompanying exhibition planned for April 8–10, 2,000 visitors came to Photonics Europe 2006, and a moderate growth is expected for 2008. The conference with its 18 sub-conferences will cover the full scope of research and development in photonics. The main topics are micro/nano technologies, optics & photonics, laser technology and applications.

Each morning, the conference will start with a "Hot Topics Session". Beside the discussion of latest research results, a broad exchange of news and views from the 7th research framework program of the European Union will be an important issue.

One of the most rapidly evolving topics in photonics research is biophotonics. Conference EPE 105 "Biophotonics: Photonic Solutions for Better Health Care" will feature more than one hundred presentations from this field, including plenary talks from Stephen A. Boppart (Univ. of Illinois at Ur-

bana-Champaign, USA) "Coherent Optical Imaging and Guided Interventions in Breast Cancer: Translating Technology into Clinical Applications" and from Kishan Dholakia (Univ. of Saint Andrews, UK) "Novel photonics for the biomedical sciences". In this sub-conference, the Journal of Biophotonics Poster Award will go to the authors who display and present their work the most effectively. This prize is awarded by Wiley-Blackwell.

www.spie.org/photonics-europe.xml

Preview

LASYS and SLT 2008



Stuttgart (at) – Highlights and innovations from laser production technology will bring together laser experts and users in Stuttgart for the fifth time from March 4–6, 2008. The Stuttgart Laser Technology Forum (SLT Stuttgart Laser Technologie) will then be held for the first time as part of LASYS, International Trade Fair for System Solutions in Laser Material Processing.

The transfer of knowledge will be the focal point of the Stuttgart Laser Technology Forum, which has become a key international event for users in the laser industry since it was first held in 1999. More than 350

participants, primarily from the industry, made use of this opportunity last year. The conception of LASYS was modelled on the long-term success of SLT and the accompanying technical exhibition.

The new trade show LASYS has yet to open its doors for the first time but has already received high-profile support from many sources. These include the Michigan-based Industrial Laser Community (ILC) from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). It is very positive about the concept of an international trade fair for system solutions in laser material processing and is setting

up a US Pavilion for its members at LASYS. The Industrial Laser Community in the SME will therefore be present at the LASYS trade fair (from March 4–6, 2008), a fact that particularly pleases its president, Tony Arquis. "The international laser industry has been waiting a long time for the exclusive opportunity to showcase the flexibility, diversity and economy of laser systems at an independent trade fair – away from conventional machine tools."

www.lasys-messe.de

Preview

International Laser Technology Congress AKL'08



Aachen – For the seventh time, laser manufacturers and users from diverse areas of industry will be meeting on May 7–9, 2008 in Aachen for the bi-annual International Laser Technology Congress AKL. Featuring over 400 participants, around 50 conference speakers and 30 sponsors, this event has established its reputation as Germany's leading forum for applications of laser technology in the production environment. Supporting organizations include European Commission, ELI and such industrial associations as EUROM, SPECTARIS, VDA, VDMA and VDI. All lectures will be made available in both German and English versions. Applications and trends once again represent the main focus

of AKL'08. Examples drawn from industrial practice and innovative R&D projects permit visitors to gain a clear overview of the present state of the art and future prospects of laser technology. At the International Laser Technology Congress the official presentation of the Innovation Award Laser Technology on May 8 will take place. This is a European research prize awarded by the association Arbeitskreis Lasertechnik e.V. and the European Laser Institute ELI. The award can be conferred on an individual researcher or on an entire project group, whose exceptional skills and dedicated work have led to an outstanding innovation in the field of laser technology. The prizewinner will receive the sum

of 10,000 euros in recognition of his or her work, and will furthermore be awarded the title of "AKL Fellow" and "ELI Fellow". Side-exhibits accompanying the congress offer an ideal environment in which to exchange information about products and services. In addition to the lectures held by laser experts in industry and science, around 60 live presentations of typical future applications of the latest systems and processes will be demonstrated on the premises of the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology and by the companies hosted by its applications center.

www.lasercongress.org

Preview

Photonics West 2008



San Jose, CA, USA (at) – In January 2008, San Jose will once again host SPIE's Photonics West, the world's most important conference and exhibition on optics, lasers, biomedical optics, optoelectronic components, and imaging technologies. Last year, the event attracted more than 17,000 visitors from 50 different countries. And further growth is expected for 2008.

The conferences, workshops and courses at Photonics West 2008 will be held on January 19–24, 2008 in the San Jose Convention Center, comprising a network of 85 conferences with 3,100 technical papers. The Photonics West Exhibition is divided into two parts: The Biomedical Optics Exhibition on January 19–20, 2008 with about 200 exhibitors, and the actual Photonics West Exhibition which will be held on January 22–24. Here, more than 1,000 exhibitors from both the local region and the international optics and photonics community will come and showcase a wide range of products and services.

The conference is divided into four renowned symposia connecting the brightest minds with leaders in science and technology:

- **BiOS 2008**

BiOS provides you with the premier technical forum for learning about the latest clinical and technical advances. BiOS is a major impetus for launching new applications and technologies; patent citations indicate the importance of the research introduced in these conferences.

- **LASE 2008**

Hear the latest advances in basic laser device research and in laser materials, device and system engineering for various applications ranging from emerging nanotechnologies, microelectronic and photonic manufacturing, free-space communications, to use on the industrial manufacturing floor.

- **MOEMS-MEMS 2008**

Micro- and nanofabricated electromechanical and optical components, created by batch processing, provide the missing links to the mass-produced miniaturized products and systems of the future.



- **OPTO 2008**

Opto 2008 addresses the latest advances in a broad range of optoelectronic technologies and their integration for a variety of applications.

Photonics West is located at the center of the world's hottest technology market, Silicon Valley. This event provides a unique opportunity to research vendors, establish new contacts, meet with current suppliers, and network with colleagues.

www.spie.org

Preview

MicroTechnology at HANNOVER MESSE 2008



Hanover (at) – **Special Show "Laser for micro machining and micro production" brings laser technology back to Hannover Messe.** With about 5,000 exhibitors, the Hannover Messe is certainly one of the biggest industrial trade shows in the world. It records about 200,000 expert visitors each year and has invited Japan as the partner country for 2008. It is the huge market, especially in the microtechnology industry, that makes Japan interesting for Europe and the United States.

Among the 10 topical trade shows within the framework of the Hannover Messe, MicroTechnology is the one with the largest impact on photonic technologies. In 2008, MicroTechnology will be located in Hall 6. This hall offers location advantages, particularly due to the direct proximity to the topic-related competence centers Hygienic Design, RFID and Mechatronics, as well as to the relevant leading trade fairs Subcontracting, Research & Technology, INTERKAMA+ (process automation) and Factory Automation. MicroTechnology has

intersections with these exhibitions. However, participants at MicroTechnology stand out of the crowd of exhibitors by being experts in miniaturization.

For ten years now, IVAM has been organizing the Product Market "Micro, Nano & Materials" at MicroTechnology/HANNOVER MESSE. IVAM is an international association of companies and institutes in the field of microtechnology, nanotechnology and advanced materials. Starting with only few exhibitors, the IVAM joint pavilion now comprises nearly 60 exhibitors from seven nations, and about 70% of the available booths are already booked for next year's exhibition.

In 2008, IVAM is concerned with the important subject of laser technology. This growth market is represented by the special show "Laser for micro machining and micro production". Companies from laser industry, such as ROFIN, SYNOVA and LIMO, will not only provide information on micro machining and micro production in general, but also very specifically. The



IVAM Product Market brings up the use of advanced materials and system integration, as well as cutting-edge production methods. Both exhibitors and the expected 50,000 visitors to MicroTechnology will benefit from this concept.

www.IVAM.de

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Editor in Chief:
Dr. Andreas Thoß
Bühningstraße 10, 13086 Berlin,
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 30/470313-50
Fax: +49 (0) 30/470313-99
E-mail: optikjournal@wiley-vch.de

Editorial Assistant:
Francisco Velasco
Tel.: +49 (0) 30/470313-23
Fax: +49 (0) 30/470313-99
E-mail: optikjournal@wiley-vch.de

WILEY-VCH Customerservice
Tel.: +49 (0) 6201/60-6400
Fax: +49 (0) 6201/60-6184
E-mail: service@wiley-vch.de

Advertising:
Änne Anders (Manager)
Boschstraße 12, 69469 Weinheim
Tel.: +49 (0) 6201/6065-52
Fax: +49 (0) 6201/6065-50
E-mail: aanders@wiley-vch.de

Françoise Fehr (Executive)
Tel.: +49 (0) 6201/6065-55
E-mail: ffehr@wiley-vch.de

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