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Press Release

IFAT 2020

Municipalities increasingly rely on electric drives

- Lower emissions for street cleaning, waste collection and winter service
- Longer range thanks to hydrogen fuel cell technology
- IFAT 2020: from prototypes to widely available products

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The major goals of cities and communities include modern environmental services with minimum emissions. That's why electric drives, among other things, are currently in particular demand. IFAT 2020 in Munich will present both established solutions and new developments.

Less air pollution, fewer greenhouse gases, less noise—these are some of the wishes people have for modern urban life. “Many municipalities have therefore been gradually switching their vehicle fleets to alternative, low-emission drives for several years now—not only in Germany and Europe, but increasingly also in Asia,” says Frank Diedrich, Director of the European manufacturer association EUnited Municipal Equipment. Particularly vehicles and machines with electric drives are currently on the upswing. And almost every manufacturer has at least one electric model in its compact sweeper range. However, the further development of truck sweepers is still a challenge. Diedrich explains: “If you want to convert them to electric drive, you probably need to give the vehicles a completely different design than a truck with a combustion engine in order to optimize weight and space.”

Electric waste collection vehicles are suitable for everyday use

An issue that has apparently already been resolved in the case of waste collection vehicles. “In waste collection, electric vehicles are now completely suitable for everyday use—and are already being used in many municipalities, especially in Switzerland,” reports Bernd Sackmann, Managing Director of the German Municipal Vehicles and Equipment Industry Association (VAK). And the

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range of basic vehicle and body manufacturers is expanding: it was only in November 2019 that Volvo Trucks announced the launch of two electric truck models in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. In addition to urban distribution traffic, the vehicles were explicitly developed for waste disposal. Series production is planned for March 2020.

Clean municipal utility vehicles have not yet been manufactured on an industrial scale and are therefore still relatively expensive. However, municipalities are reluctant to pass on these additional costs directly to their citizens. So, appropriate state support is of great importance here.

Filling up with electricity from waste

Electricity from waste—an interesting ongoing project in this context: in Bremerhaven, as of late, a purely electrically driven refuse vehicle from Faun has been charging its energy from a high-performance charging station which is fed directly from the local waste-to-energy plant.

Fuel cell vehicles close to regular operation

At IFAT 2018—the world's leading environmental technology trade fair—Faun presented prototypes of a refuse collection vehicle and a sweeper, each with an electric drive that combines hydrogen fuel cell and battery technology to increase the range. The first vehicles equipped with this technology are expected to be in regular service in German cities from 2020. “In the municipal vehicle market, the last IFAT presented an impressive setup of technological innovations. For IFAT 2020, I expect many of these prototypes to have stabilized into products that can be bought and used,” says Bernd Sackmann.

Novelty at IFAT 2020: electric brine sprayer

In addition to this consolidation, however, it is already clear today that the new edition of the trade fair from May 4 to 8, 2020 at the Munich trade fair center will once again feature new ideas for low-emission municipal technology. For example, Bucher Municipal Gmeiner GmbH will be the first manufacturer to offer a pure brine sprayer for winter road clearance, which is exclusively electrically driven. “Husky Le” does not require its own hydraulic supply and does not fall

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back on the battery of the carrier vehicle. Hence, it is suitable for all winter service vehicles.

More information on IFAT is available at ifat.de.



Municipalities continue to rely on electric drives.



IFAT 2020 will present the latest municipal vehicles with low-emission drive systems.

About IFAT

IFAT is the world's largest and leading environmental technology trade fair. Every two years, the world-leading trade show presents solutions for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management as well as solutions to make maximum use of resources and to close raw material cycles. The 2018 edition attracted 3,305 exhibitors from 58 countries and 142,472 trade visitors from 162 nations. The event occupied a completely booked space of 260,000 square meters, divided among 18 halls and an outdoor area. The next IFAT will be held at the exhibition center in Munich from May 4 to 8, 2020.

IFAT worldwide

Messe München not only demonstrates its considerable expertise in organizing environmental technology trade shows with the world's leading trade fair IFAT. Other international events include IE expo China in Shanghai, IE expo Chengdu in Chengdu, IE expo Guangzhou in Guangzhou, IFAT Africa in Johannesburg, IFAT Eurasia in Istanbul, IFAT India in Mumbai as well as IFAT Delhi in New Delhi. Together, the eight IFAT events form the world's leading network for environmental technologies.

Messe München

Messe München is one of the leading exhibition organizers worldwide with more than 50 of its own trade shows for capital goods, consumer goods and new technologies. Every year, a total of over 50,000 exhibitors and around three million visitors take part in more than 200 events at the exhibition center in Munich, at the ICM – Internationales Congress Center München and the MOC Veranstaltungszentrum München as well as abroad. Together with its subsidiary companies, Messe München organizes trade shows in China, India, Brazil, Russia, Turkey, South Africa, Nigeria, Vietnam and Iran. With a network of associated companies in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America as well as around 70 representations abroad for over 100 countries, Messe München has a global presence.