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Press Release

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LASER World of PHOTONICS 2017

Future study: light tools are revolutionizing industry

64 per cent of industrial managers in Germany anticipate that light tools will revolutionize classical manufacturing. Comfortably half of them go so far as to assume that photonics solutions will largely replace mechanical material processing in the traditional manufacturing sectors.

Industry experts accord photonics solutions “Made in Germany” a key role in this development. These are findings from the Messe München LASER World of PHOTONICS trend index 2017. They are the outcome of a poll of 100 industrial managers by a market research Institute in Germany.

70 per cent of industrial managers are convinced that photonics solutions are among the most important drivers of Industry 4.0. When machines need to see and feel or when robots need to be equipped with new material processing techniques, then light-based solutions are required. A large majority of businesses in Germany currently uses photonics and laser-based systems primarily for welding, cutting and drilling (74 per cent). To this need to be added optical technologies, for example for image processing (58 per cent).

Experts testing the technology

Industrial managers anticipate that light-based tools will boost the competitiveness of medium-sized enterprises (61 per cent) and large industrial sectors alike. Most manufacturing experts

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are already analyzing specific new laser and light applications (64 per cent). For example, companies are interested in photonics and laser-based solutions that can be used to automate manufacturing processes.

Businesses want to cooperate with science

According to the experts questioned, the most important characteristics include light tools' precision when it comes to working (94 per cent), new machining techniques for surfaces and layers (79 per cent) and their use in networked machine communication (73 per cent). In order to be able to make better use of the opportunities from research and development, companies want to cooperate more closely with external experts. Around 80 per cent want to cooperate with science on further education and training involving new light applications.

“An outstanding scientific infrastructure has come into being in Europe and especially in Germany”, says Prof. Peter Loosen of the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT. “Science is providing industry with effective and focused, application-oriented support with the introduction of photonics technologies.”

“The world’s leading trade fair LASER World of PHOTONICS in Munich is an opportunity for participants to find out about current photonics potential and challenges”, says Dr. Reinhard Pfeiffer, Deputy CEO, Messe München GmbH. Around 1300 exhibitors and more than 30,000 trade visitors from more than 70 countries are expected in the Munich trade fair halls from June 26 to 29, 2017. The sector’s leading researchers will also be meeting at the World of Photonics Congress.

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About LASER World of PHOTONICS trend index

In April 2017, the LASER World of PHOTONICS trade fair employed a market research institute to conduct a survey of a total of 100 experts and managers from the industry in Germany (N=100). 91 per cent of these industry managers represent companies with 100 employees or more. 74 per cent of the participant panel is accounted for by representatives of the engineering, automotive and electronics sectors.

LASER World of PHOTONICS

The LASER World of PHOTONICS is the world's leading trade fair of the laser and photonics industry. World of Photonics Congress, Europe's largest photonics congress, will be taking place in parallel with the trade fair. The program comprises five scientific conferences of leading global organizations. Supplementing this Messe München will be offering practical lectures on the applications of photonics ("Application Panels"). The combination of trade fair and congress brings together research and application, thereby promoting the use and continued development of optical technologies. In 2015 the trade fair set an exhibitor record with 1,227 exhibitors from 42 countries. A total of 31,279 trade visitors from 72 countries entered the Messe München site. In 2015 the World of Photonics Congress registered 5,600 participants with an offering of more than 2,700 lectures and presentations including poster presentations.

The LASER World of PHOTONICS has been organized every two years by Messe München since 1973; the next event will take place in Munich from June 26-29, 2017, the next World of Photonics Congress will take place in parallel from June 25-29, 2017 in the ICM - International Congress Center Munich. www.world-of-photonics.com/index-2.html

The LASER World of PHOTONICS global network

LASER World of PHOTONICS has developed an international trade fair network. LASER World of PHOTONICS in Munich is the world's leading platform of the laser and photonics industry. World of Photonics Congress is Europe's largest photonics congress. LASER World of PHOTONICS CHINA and LASER World of PHOTONICS INDIA are leading regional trade fairs for laser and optical technologies and are staged annually in China (Shanghai) and India (alternating between Bangalore and New Delhi). With a total of 2,295 exhibitors and more than 92,000 visitors in Munich, China and India, Messe München is the world's leading trade fair organizer for lasers and photonics.

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.

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