

LIGNA 2015 AGAIN A TOP FAIR EDITION

Every two years, since 1975, Deutsche Messe AG in Hannover is the host of the world fair Ligna for the wood industry and forestry. For many years the fair brand has been synonymous with a broad spectrum of exhibits, covering the wood industry's entire supply chain. During the five-day event every facet of woodworking and wood processing machines including research and education in this field has been shown. From the primary sector to woodworking and logistics, exhibitors focused on the motto of this edition: "Making more out of wood", which was held between 11th and 15th of May 2015. Despite the reduced exhibition space compared with the last two fairs, it was an outstanding success which presented innovative technologies and production lines, large-scale equipment and the rapid strides made by Industry 4.0 in the wood processing industry.

Some 1567 exhibitors (2013:1,637) showcased their latest solutions, technologies and innovative production equipment on over 120,000m² (2013:124,000) of display space. There was a clear focus on integrated, high-efficiency and lower energy consumption manufacturing. A total of 96,000 visitors (2013:90,000) attended the fair, including approximately 40,000 (2013:32,800) from outside Germany. The top visitor nations were Austria, France, Italy, USA, UK, Russia, Belgium, Poland, Sweden, China and Brazil. The attendance from Asia increased considerably to 4,700 (2013:2,800). 86% were from the Near and Middle East. 2,800 (2013:1,700) visitors came from South and Central America. The percentage of professionals in attendance grew to 96% (2013:94%).

"Exhibitors here presented their latest innovations to a global audience, clearly demonstrating the new, high standards of communication between people, machinery and smart objects in the furniture and wood industry," stated Dr. Jochen Köckler, member of the Deutsche Messe Managing Board in charge of LIGNA. "Pioneering new technologies are the key to success for joiners and cabinetmakers, putting integrated manufacturing within their reach." Köckler also said the outstanding success of the event cemented its leading status worldwide.

Many CEOs of famous European machinery manufacturer groups confirmed that also this LIGNA met the expectations of exhibitors, generated even more impulses in an already positive market environment, and demonstrated the potential of new technologies for everyone in the wood industry, which is precisely what customers from around the world expect from the flagship fair.

An open-air site provided the right place at this event for large-scale machinery in the section of the fair dedicated to forestry. The forestry displays were also more international than ever, which was underlined by the appearance of various exhibitors from abroad.

Traditionally Hall 27 continued to be dedicated to the machinery producers for logs and sawn timber processing and the other half for the panel industry machinery manufacturers. The taking-offs of smaller companies into the existing mega-groups, which cover and provide the equipment for the production processes, continues to be a main trend in this place. The sawmill technology displays put the spotlight on increased efficiency and added value. Newly the "energy from wood showcased concepts and solutions for an optimal use of wood as a biofuel. The panel products sector also abounded in innovations, with displays clearly reflecting the growing significance of wood-based materials for construction.

Live demonstrations of furniture production in simulated factory settings were right on target for visitors reflecting rapid strides made by Industry 4.0 and offering a first-hand glimpse of the benefits of this integrated manufacturing. There was also a lot of information to support attendees in their future new investment or up-dating decisions, with exhibitor presentations focusing strongly on the aspects of flexibility and economic efficiency. The new ideas for customized mass production featured at this Ligna set the agenda in the woodworking and wood processing sector for years to come.

The new technologies for solid wood working displayed efficiency-boosting innovations. The spotlight was on integrated manufacturing for substantial cost reductions. Also for all shapes and sizes companies of joiners and cabinetmakers showed that the fair provided more insight into the hot topic of integrated manufacturing as an innovative solution for efficient manufacturing processes.

The new Wood Industry Summit (Hall 13) was an instant success, and the "surprisingly versatile" topics met the interest of the visitors and participants. "This year's LIGNA struck a chord among exhibitors and visitors – embodying three resounding notes: outstanding international participation, impressive innovation and a further increase in top-executive attendance," remarked Köckler. The summit proved with its mix of discussion and presentations, a hit with its target audience enabling an enhancement and extension of the network of international leads across the board. Equipment manufacturer exhibitors, trade visitors and industry, research and government delegations from around the globe used this forum as a valuable source of leads for project deals in high-growth markets.

Half of Hall 15 in the fair allowed exhibitors in the field of research and teaching, particularly from Germany, Austria and Switzerland but also from other continents to present the results of their study programs, their research work and the latest results of their projects.

In the special presentation entitled “Surprisingly Versatile” the main focus was not on wood; instead, exhibitors showcased the flexibility of their technologies for processing different kinds of materials ranging from plastic machining technology to equipment for processing alloys and composites.

All worldwide specialists from the wood industry experienced great interest in improving communication regarding the globalization of customers and producers, which was confirmed at this Ligna – a leading event in this industry that can’t be missed.

The next Ligna fair in Hanover will be between 22nd and 26th of May 2017 with the slogan “trade wood fairly”.

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The delegation of the Faculty for Wood Engineering from Brasov at Ligna 2015 in Hannover.



Live demonstrations of furniture production in simulated factory settings (Deutsche Messe).

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