



ESSEN WELDING FAIR 2009

World fair of joining technology continues on course for success

6 October, 2009

ESSEN/DÜSSELDORF – "Without exhibitors and trade visitors, without suppliers and without decision-takers, without purchasers and sellers, no fair. Thus, it is the exhibitors and the visitors who light the flame at the Olympics of Joining Technology." With these words on September 13, 2009, Professor Heinrich Flegel, President of DVS – German Welding Society, greeted the numerous guests who had followed the invitation to the opening ceremony of the 17th International ESSEN WELDING FAIR.

As has been shown by the fair week from September 14 to 19, something actually clicked between the exhibitors and the visitors:

Distinct growth stimuli

Over 1,000 exhibitors from 42 countries in total showed the most comprehensive range on offer at the fair since the premiere of the ESSEN WELDING FAIR in 1952. The 60,000 trade visitors altogether travelled to Essen from 128 countries in order to form their own impression of the state of the art in joining, cutting and coating technology. A large number of business transactions (in part, in the middle of the six-figure range) and promising sales discussions are raising expectations of outstanding post-fair business.

It is notable that the global economic crisis situation in the run-up to the fair in an international respect was tackled with an offensively unambiguous presence. According to the motto "Now, all the more so!", the 17th ESSEN WELDING FAIR was the fair with the strongest exhibition of all time.

Internationality

However, the international contacts were characterised not only by the discussions and business transactions between the exhibitors and the trade visitors but also by the visits of the many delegations to the fair:

The Chinese Mechanical Engineering Society (CMES) had a special anniversary to celebrate, i.e. it has been a member of DVS for 25 years. Within the framework of the ESSEN WELDING FAIR, Dr.-Ing. Klaus Middeldorf, DVS Chief Executive Officer, handed over the anniversary certificate to Zhang Yanmin, General Secretary of CMES. Both partners, DVS and CMES, took this opportunity to stress the good collaboration until now and were looking forward to further cooperation possibilities in the future. These also include the continued intensive collaboration with regard to BEIJING ESSEN WELDING & CUTTING which, in 2010, will take place in Beijing on May 27 - 30.

Russia and Ukraine were represented by guests from DVS's partner society NAKS – National Agency for Control and Welding and from the Paton Electric Welding Institute in Kiev. The Russian NAKS also used the visit to the fair in order to receive the certificate which was issued by DVS Zert e. V. and confirms that, in fabrication, NAKS has quality management according to the international requirements in DIN EN ISO 9001:2008. The Russian attestation system in fabrication and assembly thus complies with the international standards.

In addition to NAKS, the Alliance of Welders of St. Petersburg also found their way to Essen. They were making use of the opportunity to discuss the further collaboration and cooperation measures with DVS, also in view of "Svarka". Because there will also be an Essen Welding Pavilion at this fair which will take place in St. Petersburg on May 19 - 22, 2010.

Moreover, discussions about the further, joint work in EWF – European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting and IIW – International Institute of Welding were held with the Russian Welding Society (RWS) in the context of the ESSEN WELDING FAIR. Both, IIW and EWF, are international partners of DVS.

As far as SCHWEISSEN & SCHNEIDEN India is concerned, DVS was able to make future plans and hold additional cooperation discussions with the corresponding delegations from India and to stipulate the further future of this fair. The next SCHWEISSEN & SCHNEIDEN India will take place in Mumbai on February 10 - 12, 2010.

Other foreign guests at the fair included the Italian IIS - Istituto Italiano della Saldatura, also an IIW member, as well as visitors from Serbia, Rumania, Korea and Brazil. There were also groups of trade visitors from the USA from AWS - American Welding Society as well as from Morocco, India, Brazil, Indonesia, Iran and Taiwan.

Such a high number of international delegations clearly shows that the partnerships between DVS, EWF and IIW are on a firm footing and that the exchange of experience functions outstandingly across international borders.

Furthermore, internationality also existed in questions relating to personnel qualification: The latest offers with regard to the training and qualification concept according to EWF and IIW were presented at the cooperative booth of DVS and GSI where contacts from EWF and IIW were continuously available for discussions and questions about the training and certification according to the international guidelines.

The regional DVS network

The résumé which DVS can make with regard to its regional structure is also pleasing: Many society members were guests at the ESSEN WELDING FAIR and at the cooperative booth of DVS and GSI – Gesellschaft für Schweißtechnik International mbH. Intensive discussions resulted in a lively exchange of information and experience which not only included specialist facets but also addressed the subject of the DVS work in situ in the state and district branches. The DVS district branches in New Brandenburg and Central Hesse sent delegations to Essen, warmly welcomed by the DVS Management Board as well as by the Manager of Member Support and Society Development in DVS.

"Young Welders" and the promotion of the up-and-coming generation

There was also an international feel to the last day of the one-week national DVS "Young Welders" competition when young welders from Germany competed with up-and-coming welders from China and the Czech Republic. However, the national contest in the four disciplines of "Manual Metal-Arc Welding", "Gas Welding", "MAG Welding" and "TIG Welding" was the centre of attention on the days before. The youngsters who had previously won through at the district and state levels welded for the first time in public and in front of the audience in the Galeria on the fair site. A challenge which was primarily

worthwhile for the contestants who came first in the individual disciplines: DVS will invite them to the international competition in China in the coming year.

The competition between the up-and-coming welders aroused avid interest amongst the spectators and the sponsors without whom it would not have been possible to stage the competition. Not only the winners in the individual disciplines but also the most successful DVS state branch overall were honoured.

The DVS "Young Welders" competition is one of the most important marketing instruments of the society when it is a question of promoting the up-and-coming generation in joining technology. These also include the DVS lecture events for the Young Professionals and the annual Student Congress, the new "Welding in Schools" initiative which is intended to make joining technology more accessible to pupils and the DVS initiative which aims to create the training occupation called "Joining technology specialist for industry and the skilled trades".

The visit of a 34-strong group of vocational college students from Wilhelmshaven and trainees from the Water and Inland Waterways Authority there to the fair at the invitation of DVS may also be attributed to DVS's promotion of the up-and-coming generation.

Furthermore, the EWM "Physics of Welding" award counts as a special element of the promotion of the up-and-coming generation. The award was offered for the first time this year. Within the framework of the opening ceremony for the fair, EWM Hightec Welding GmbH and DVS jointly presented it to the young up-and-coming scientist Dipl.-Ing. Sascha Rose from Technische Universität Dresden. The award is endowed with Euro 30,000 in total and, as a promotion prize, will support Rose's research work on the subject of "Emission-reduced pulsed GMA welding". After the presentation ceremony, the EMW "Physics of Welding" award was announced once again for 2011.

Imparting of knowledge and exchange of experience

The Annual Welding Conference (GST) is an annual DVS event which concentrates on the exchange of experience in joining technology. This year, GST took place in a new format for the first time and this was accepted as absolutely positive by the speakers and the guests: The GST: Messe Forum 2009 on the cooperative booth of DVS and GSI was directly integrated into the happenings at the fair. With varied lectures and discussion contributions relating to different main focal points, the Student Congress and the Skilled Tradesmen Congress, the Forum made a substantial contribution to the exchange of information about joining technology.

Both the subject pavilions geared to special fields, "QTI – Quality Testing International" and "Adhesive Bonding", also received keen acclaim from the trade visitors.

Research and occupational health and safety - prize-winning

For a long time already, DVS has been committed to occupational health and safety during welding. In order to place greater emphasis on this matter, DVS has been involved in offering a prize for occupational health and safety.

Occupational health and safety as well as safety during welding were also the subject of this year's "3M Welding Safety Award" which 3M Deutschland GmbH and DVS have jointly announced. The prize-winners chosen by the jury were Jochem Tanneberger, Owner and Managing Director of the company PMT – Präventions-Management-Team, and the Cooperation Agency in the

Department of the Authority for Science and Research of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. The award, endowed with Euro 10,000 in total, was bestowed on both prize-winners with equal importance. Tanneberger was honoured for his many years of intensive commitment to occupational health and safety whose results were incorporated into the "Welding mobile in order to improve the breathing sphere during welding". The Cooperation Agency in Hamburg received the mark of distinction for the development and application of PIMEX – a system for effective occupational health and safety at welding workplaces.

Since occupational health and safety is and will continue to be of enduring significance, the "3M Welding Safety Award" was announced once again for 2011.

Good prospects for the coming years

DVS, Messe Essen as well as the exhibitors and the visitors had great expectations for this year's ESSEN WELDING FAIR. It has more than fulfilled these expectations. Therefore, the prospects for the planned fairs and large-scale events of DVS in the coming years are correspondingly optimistic and promising:

- SCHWEISSEN & SCHNEIDEN India, February 10 - 12, 2010, Mumbai
- Essen Welding Pavilion within the framework of Svarka in St. Petersburg - May 19 - 22, 2010, St. Petersburg
- Beijing Essen Welding & Cutting, May 27 - 30, 2010, Beijing
- SCHWEISSEN & SCHNEIDEN Russia, May 2011, Moscow
- DIE VERBINDUNGS SPEZIALISTEN 2011, Hamburg
- ESSEN WELDING FAIR, September 16 - 21, 2013 with IIW Annual Assembly and Congress, Essen

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