

IFAT 2008 Grows and Grows

Record total of over 190,000 m2 of exhibition space, indoors and outdoors International exhibitors in particular book more space. At IFAT, the 15th International Trade Fair for Water – Sewage – Refuse – Recycling, which takes place from 5 to 9 May 2008 in Munich, the visitors can look forward to an impressive range of innovative solutions and new technology for implementing practical, cost-efficient solutions, plus a broad spectrum of services for the sector.

In 2005 the event attracted a new record number of participants with 2,223 exhibitors from 36 countries and 109,000 trade visitors from 166 nations. In 2008, the exhibition space has expanded to 192,000 square metres, which is 22,000 square metres more than at IFAT 2005. This represents an increase of 13 percent.

An even bigger rise has been noted in the space booked by international exhibitors. This has risen by 18 percent.

The attractions at IFAT 2008 are rounded off with a programme of trade conferences, symposia and forums exploring new directions for the future, and events focusing on flood protection and disaster prevention and control. In the forums exhibitors and associations will be putting on lectures and panel discussions on current product developments, trends and market analyses. These events are an excellent opportunity for gathering new ideas, updating knowledge and forging new business contacts.

Gas detectors are essential in environments where toxic or explosive gases are used or stored, in areas where oxygen levels are low, for example in badly ventilated rooms, and in shafts, tanks and sewers. In particular the fermentation or rotting processes in sewage treatment



and the production of biogas can give rise to noxious gases, often in unfamiliar mixtures. At IFAT 2008, which takes place from 5 to 9 May 2008 in Munich, visitors have the opportunity of finding out all about the latest trends in the sector and the technological solutions to handle the problems.

Stricter legal regulations and ever more specific customer requirements are prompting manufacturers to push ahead with new developments and innovations. As the workplace limit values for dangerous substances continue to decrease, more and more sensitive sensors are required. Modern gas detectors have to reliably detect even the lowest concentrations and sound the alarm. And as far as possible without any false alerts. For example with many gases it is no longer exclusively the peak values that are taken when considering potential harmful influences on employees, but long-term exposure. This strategy is also prompting greater sensitivity of sensors. One example of a recent change in the law which is having immediate effect on the measuring technology used, comes from the US: here the limit values for combustible components in the atmosphere, such as methane and hexane, were tightened. Until now a level a percentage proportion below the lower explosive limit has been tolerated, for example 10 percent LEL (corresponds to 4400 ppm) for methane. Now the limit for this toxic substance is 1000 ppm (parts per million, or 10–6), which is a much tougher measurement task.