

No. 18 / Maj / 21 January 2018, Cologne
Final report

imm cologne: a dynamic start to the furniture year

Around 125,000 visitors from 138 countries
Increase in international trade visitors
imm cologne promotes exports
Focus topics: lighting, bathrooms and the smart home

imm cologne ended on Sunday, 21 January 2018, with very positive results. In total, around 125,000 visitors (including estimates for the last day of the interiors show) attended the event to find out about industry trends and new launches. With this figure, imm cologne achieved a slight increase in visitors compared to the similar event in 2016 despite Storm Friederike on Thursday and the resulting transport difficulties. The event attracted greater numbers of trade visitors from Europe and Asia, which are the No. 1 export markets for the German and European furniture industries. "imm cologne is an excellent and highly effective platform for international business," said Gerald Böse, President and Chief Executive Officer of Koelnmesse. "Each year, the trade fair provides the industry with vital momentum for sales in decisive export markets around the world," he added. The President of the Association of the German Furniture Industry, Axel Schramm, also gave the event an excellent verdict: "The German furniture industry is delighted that imm cologne went exceptionally well and gave us a great start to 2018. We hope that the momentum that we'll take with us from Cologne will carry us throughout the rest of the year. The trade fair's success will assist furniture manufacturers in expanding our successful exports and in achieving results in the challenging home market," he commented.

Strong increase in the share of international trade visitors

imm cologne's international reach is not only increasing among exhibitors. The interiors show also attracted growing numbers of international visitors. The proportion of foreign visitors rose to around 50 per cent (2016: 46 per cent) on the trade visitor days. Within Europe, increases in visitor numbers were recorded in particular from Spain (+31 per cent), Belgium (+16 per cent), France (+11 per cent), the Netherlands (+1 per cent) and Eastern Europe (+54 per cent), with particularly impressive growth in Russian visitors (+69 per cent). Significant increases were seen in visitors from Asia (+50 per cent), with especially strong growth from China (+82 per cent) and Japan (+63 per cent), as well as the Middle East (+15 per cent), Australia/Oceania (+51 per cent), North America (+12 per cent) and Central America (+21 per cent).



imm cologne

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www.imm-cologne.com

Your contact:

Markus Majerus

Tel.

+49 221 821-2627

Fax

+49 221 821-3544

E-mail

m.majerus

@koelnmesse.de

Koelnmesse GmbH

Messeplatz 1

50679 Köln

P.O. Box 21 07 60

50532 Köln

Germany

Tel. +49 221 821-0

Fax +49 221 821-2574

info@koelnmesse.de

www.koelnmesse.de

Executive Board:

Gerald Böse

(President and Chief Executive Officer)

Katharina C. Hamma

Herbert Marner

Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board:

Mayor of the City of Cologne

Henriette Reker

Headquarters and place of jurisdiction:

Cologne

District Court Cologne, HRB 952

imm cologne - a powerful business platform for leading retail decision-makers

In addition to the event's strong international profile on all days of the trade fair, exhibitors also rated the quality of the visitors as excellent. Specialist retailers and high-profile international visitors from the furnishings trade and interior design business were recorded as visitors, with many of them coming from the global top 30 chains. They were joined at imm cologne by decision-makers from the major online platforms and international department stores, including Alinéa from France, John Lewis from the United Kingdom, Lars Larsen from Denmark, El Corte Inglés from Spain, Nitori from Japan and Ashley from the USA. The major industry players in online retail – including Amazon, the Otto Group and Wayfair – also used the event intensively for their business. A delegation of 80 design-oriented interiors stores from the USA and Canada, including Luminaire from Miami and DDC from New York, visited imm cologne to view the Pure segment. "There is no better proof that our extensive VIP programme is successful and that imm cologne is also an excellent business platform in the years when it does not have a co-located kitchens event," said Katharina C. Hamma, Chief Operating Officer of Koelnmesse.

New topics were a hit with visitors

In addition to the product showcases, "Das Haus" - a walk-in simulation of a home designed by Lucie Koldova this year - was once again one of the trade fair highlights in every sense of the term as light played a key role in the installation. Lighting, bathrooms and the smart home were the focus topics for this edition of the fair, and particular emphasis was placed on them in the Pure Architects concept hall. By examining these themes, the 360-degree interiors show addressed three crucial future issues that are set to be increasingly important in interior design.

Koelnmesse - Global competence in Furniture, Interiors and Design:

Koelnmesse is the world's top trade fair organiser for the areas of furnishing, living and lifestyle. At the trade fair hub of Cologne, the leading international fair imm cologne as well as the trade fair formats of LivingKitchen, ORGATEC, spoga+gafa, interzum and Kind + Jugend rank among the internationally renowned and established industry meeting places. These fairs comprehensively represent the upholstered and case furniture segment, the kitchen industry, the office furniture sector and outdoor living as well as the innovations of the furniture supply industry. Over the last few years, Koelnmesse has specifically added international fairs in the most important fast-expanding markets to its portfolio. These include the LivingKitchen/CIKB in Shanghai, interzum guangzhou in Guangzhou and Pueri Expo in Sao Paulo. With ambista, the network of the interior decorating industry, Koelnmesse offers direct access to relevant products, contacts, competence and events.

Further information is available at: <http://www.global-competence.net/interiors/>

Further information about ambista: <http://ww.ambista.com/>

The next events:

ZOW - Supplier fair for the furniture and interior design industry

6.02.2018 - 8.02.2018 Bad Salzuflen, Germany

Feria Mueble & Madera - The event for industrial wood processing and furniture manufacturing 6.03.2018 - 9.03.2018 Bogota, Colombia

interzum guangzhou - Asia's Leading Furniture Production Fair

28.03.2018 - 31.03.2018 Guangzhou, China

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Note for editorial offices:

imm cologne 2018 photos are available in our image database on the Internet at www.imm-cologne.com in the "Press" section.

Press information is available at: www.imm-cologne.com/Pressinformation

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Your contact:

Markus Majerus

Communications Manager

Koelnmesse GmbH

Messeplatz 1

50679 Cologne

Germany

Tel +49 221 821-2627

Fax +49 221 821-3544

m.majerus@koelnmesse.de

www.koelnmesse.com