

PRESSE-RELEASE

Oktober 2018



Preparations for the trade fair for optics, electronics and mechanics in full swing

The sixth edition of the network fair W3+ Fair/Convention is announced: On 25 and 26 February 2019, international experts will meet again at the high-tech location of Wetzlar to discuss future technologies. An all-round programme with special areas and lectures will be offered on the innovation topics "Additive production/ 3D printing" and "Microtechnologies for optical devices". New: In September 2019, the successful event will expand for the first time into the Rhine Valley, which unites the four countries Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein and Germany.

Hamburg, 10 October 2018 - On 25 and 26 February 2019, the W3+ Fair/Convention trade fair (www.w3-fair.com) will take place for the sixth time in Wetzlar. The annual industry get-together for precision technologies such as optics, electronics and mechanics aims to promote innovations from which high-tech everyday products also emerge. Several innovations are planned for the upcoming event, which is aimed at companies, technical developers, users, junior staff and decision-makers: in 2019, the innovation topics "Additive production/ 3D printing" and "Microtechnologies for optical devices" will be on the agenda.

The event will once again be supported by the Gold Partner Duo Wetzlar Network and the European Photonics Network, EPIC. New to the ranks of competent partners is the International Association for Microtechnology, IVAM. Exhibitors who have confirmed their attendance include OptoTech, Bühler Alzenau, Schneider, Universal Photonics, WZW Optic, and Meopta. New companies such as Nikon, Sios, Aerotech and the Swiss company Fisba are expected to attend.

At the last W3+ Fair/Convention at the beginning of 2018, more than 180 companies and partners as well as more than 3000 trade visitors were present. The event is one of the innovation drivers of the high-tech location Wetzlar. At the same time it offers companies from outside easy access to the "optical engineering region" of Central Hessen. Wetzlar Network Manager Ralf Niggemann explains: "The

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W3+ Fair/Convention brings competence and innovation potential together. This creates new perspectives for companies - whether from the region or the rest of the world. Reason enough to export the innovative event concept: At the end of September 2019, organiser Fleet Events is organising the first W3+ Fair/Convention Rheintal (www.w3-fair.com). It provides access to companies from Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein and Germany.

Innovation topics: Additive production/ 3D printing and Microtechnologies for optical devices

The IHK Lahn-Dill is planning a seminar on "Additive Manufacturing / 3D Printing" - registrations subject to a fee will be possible from November. A special area is being prepared for this purpose. The new partner IVAM is organizing an exhibition on the subject of "Microtechnologies for Optical Devices". Member companies of the association, including Fisba, Nanos and Sentec, will present the latest developments in the fields of optics and photonics. The presentation will be supplemented by lectures open to the public.

W3+ Fair/Convention to expand into the Rhine Valley in 2019

In September 2019, the W3+ Fair/Convention will be an export hit: the successful event format will then expand for the first time into the Rhine Valley - the quadrangle of Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein and Germany on Lake Constance. Central competitive advantage of the valley: the focus on applied research and development for many industrial sectors. The exhibition hall in Dornbirn has been booked for 18 and 19 September 2019. Strong competence partners are also present in the Rhine Valley: Swissphotonics, EPIC, Spectaris, Wetzlar Network and IVAM have confirmed their support. "With the new special topics, our strong partners and our expansion into the Rhine Valley, we also want to open up new visitor target groups," says Project Director Jörg Brück, explaining the strategy. "At the same time, the usefulness of the W3+ Fair/Convention for exhibitors and visitors will be further increased".

More information and pictures at www.w3-fair.com

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About the W3+ Fair/Convention

The event is the result of an industrial initiative in Wetzlar and Central Hessen that aims to promote networking between the three sectors of optics, electronics and mechanics. New interfaces are to be used to launch forward-looking technologies. The fair took place for the first time in February 2014 in the Rittal Arena in Wetzlar. The W3 Fair+Convention is organised by the Hamburg trade fair organiser FLEET Events (www.fleet-events.de). The namesake Wetzlar Network (www.wetzlar-network.de) and the European Photonics Industry Consortium EPIC (www.epic-assoc.com) will be there as gold partners.

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