

Press

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Automechanika

The World's Leading Trade Fair for the Automotive Service Industry
Frankfurt am Main, 13 to 17 September 2016

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Advanced training workshops “Accident damage repairs” at Automechanika Frankfurt 2016 a complete success

Well-received format to be continued in 2018

Two months have passed, since the 24th Automechanika trade fair closed its doors. Yet the impact of the trade fair continues to exert its influence well beyond that. Not only for the exhibitors, who can now rejoice in their full order books and excellent business deals. Visitors, too, are still dining out on the new products and accomplishments that they saw in Frankfurt. Not least, for example, in the advanced training workshops dealing with accident damage repair.

“Visit a three-hour-long practical workshop at a trade fair?! Surely, no visitor has time for that!” Thus runs the frequently expressed assessment of many pessimists. But anyone taking a look at the figures for the total of twelve workshops organised during this year's Automechanika, will soon discover otherwise. Over 800 visitors took advantage of the opportunity not only to examine new products but also to invest some of their time in extending their professional knowledge at one of the twelve workshops that were on offer, from 13 to 17 September, in the Galleria between Halls 8 and 9. This year, as had already been the case in 2014, they were conducted in German in the morning and in English in the afternoon.

Trade visitors had a choice between workshops, including “Systematic assessment and recording of accident damage in cars” and “Digital calculation and communication of repair costs”. There was also a workshop on “Trained personnel for hybrid / hydrogen-electric power units” and a great deal of visitor interest was generated by the sessions on “Reading stored fault codes / fault diagnosis / headlight adjustment” and “Diagnosing chassis and suspension faults / camera calibration”. In addition, the advanced training programme included workshops on new body-work assembly techniques, innovative materials and composites in motor-vehicle construction and new painting techniques. As proof of successful completion, participants in all twelve workshops were given a certificate of attendance at the end. As is usual in Frankfurt, all the workshops were distinguished by a high proportion of practical

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involvement and live demonstrations.

International public also keen to learn

The fact that the courses were offered in two languages – German in the morning and English in the afternoon – was very well received by course participants. Whilst many of the trainers felt that the morning sessions were more strongly attended, at the same time, a significant number of the international participants had deliberately planned their visit to Automechanika in Frankfurt, specifically with the workshops in mind. Lots of them attended several courses and took advantage of their visit to the trade fair as an opportunity to further their own personal professional development. As Dirk Breuer from Toyota puts it, referring to a group of Australian mechanics, who had attended his workshop (Trained Personnel for Hybrid Hydrogen-Electric Drive Units) and other courses: “The participants were delighted to receive a certificate.” Rainer Leikert from Beissbarth (Diagnosing chassis and suspension faults / camera calibration) described a similar experience. Alongside visitors from Australia and Asia, he also welcomed mechanics from New Zealand to his workshop. Course leader, Michael Geiger from BMW also reported strong attendance figures from abroad. The subject of his workshop was body-work repairs to the new BMW 7 series, which are particularly challenging, on account of the various types of material that have been used in the construction of the vehicle. “We had a very well-informed audience in the afternoons as well and, through the workshop, we were able to reach precisely the target group we had in mind,” said Michael Geiger. These included students on advanced skills courses, preparing for their master craftsman certificates, damage assessors and representatives of insurance companies, as well as owners of repair shops and their staff from Germany and abroad.

Things heat up in the Galleria

Basically, all the trainers praised the positive attitudes of visitors, who were knowledgeable in their field and keen to learn. “Amongst the participants were one or two students, who attended our event just out of interest. Altogether the level of expertise amongst those taking part was very high and many of them were directly involved in the motor-vehicle sector,” recounts Klaus Dollas from Carbon, who was demonstrating new techniques for the removal of dents. The quality of participants was evident in the lively participation, the subsequent discussions and the perseverance and ability to concentrate of those attending.

Stamina and concentration were particularly in demand from participants and trainers alike this year. The high summer temperatures on the first three days of the show meant that things really did start to heat up beneath the glass roof of the Galleria.

Not very surprising then, that many of the trainers – as well as participants – of the workshops have expressed a wish for improved shade from the sun in 2018, as well as more powerful ventilation for the workshop areas. And, in terms of extraneous noise, there was a clear request for the Frankfurt Exhibition Centre to reduce the intrusive noise

levels from other things going on at the show, with better sound insulation.

Perfect organisation

Overall, Messe Frankfurt, gets, without exception, top marks for the organisation of the workshops, the content of the programme and the running of the events. Comments range from: "I wouldn't know what to suggest to improve things," to "An all-round successful event," and "That was ideal in terms of both the organisation and the content on offer," and reflect the general mood of trainers and participating companies alike. Virtually all the trainers, who were asked, expressed their wish to take an active part in the advanced training workshops again in 2018, the year of Automechanika's 25th anniversary.

Messe Frankfurt is assisted in the running of the accident repair workshops by, amongst others, the following companies: Adam Opel AG, BASF Coatings/Glasurit, Beissbarth, BMW, Carbon, Car-o-Liner, DEKRA Automobil GmbH, Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH, Farécla, Festool GmbH, Henkel AG & Co. KGaA, Robert Bosch GmbH, SATA, Sehon, Toyota, Vosschemie GmbH, Wieländer + Schill as well as the Technical Academy of the Motor Vehicle Trade (*Technische Akademie des Kraftfahrzeuggewerbes - TAK*).

And there is general agreement amongst the sponsors, too, that they will continue to support the workshops again in 2018. One of their representatives, Anja Heintl from hydraulic ramp manufacturers, ATH-Heintl, who support the workshops, by, amongst other things, providing the inspection ramps, says: "I was unfortunately unable to attend any of the events myself. We had a full house at our stand all the way through the show. But from where we are standing, the advanced training workshops are an all-round success and a perfect additional complement for repair-shop practitioners. We shall be delighted to sponsor them again in 2018."

More information on Automechanika is to be found at: www.automechanika.com, in our blog: www.driving-news.com and at: www.facebook.com/automechanika, www.twitter.com/automechanika and: www.automechanika.com/gplus.

Background information on Messe Frankfurt

Messe Frankfurt is one of the world's leading trade fair organisers, generating around €648 million in sales and employing 2,244 people. The Messe Frankfurt Group has a global network of 30 subsidiaries and 55 international Sales Partners, allowing it to serve its customers on location in 175 countries. Messe Frankfurt events take place at approx. 50 locations around the globe. In 2015, Messe Frankfurt organised a total of 133 trade fairs, of which more than half took place outside Germany.

Comprising an area of 592,127 square metres, Messe Frankfurt's exhibition grounds are home to ten exhibition halls. The company also operates two congress centres. The historic Festhalle, one of the most popular venues in Germany, plays host to events of all kinds. Messe Frankfurt is publicly owned, with the City of Frankfurt holding 60 percent and the State of Hesse 40 percent.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.messefrankfurt.com

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