



Exhibitors were pleased with the number and quality of visitors



Metec 2011 – A bright world for metals

The number of exhibitors at the metallurgical plantmaker show Metec held in Düsseldorf every four years grew by almost a third over the previous event in 2007. Overseas exhibitors accounted for almost two-thirds of the total with these being dominated by China which accounted for 25% of all overseas companies present. **A report by the Editor Steel Times International**

EVERY four years, Messe Düsseldorf hosts a quartet of metals shows, Metec, Gifa, Newcast, and Thermprocess.

This year, the 5-day event took place from 28 June to 2 July and attracted 79 000 visitors from 83 countries – most paying a €50 entry fee (€40 pre-booked) and 1958 exhibitors were present in total in the four shows.

Metec features plant and equipment suppliers to the metals industry, while Gifa is aimed at the foundry industry, Newcast at the precision casting sector and Thermprocess exhibits furnace and furnace equipment.

This was the eighth Metec show the first taking place in 1979, adding to the long established Gifa event which commenced as long ago as 1956. Thermprocess saw its 10th anniversary this year while Newcast is a relative newcomer first taking place in 2003.

2011 generally saw an increase in exhibitors and floor area with all but Gifa showing an increase in both. While Gifa remains the largest show of the four with 784 companies exhibiting this was down 1% (9 companies) on 2007 due to mergers and some losses during the 2009 recession.

Metec saw a 32.5% increase over 2007 in the number of exhibitors with 488 participants spread over three halls. The floor space increased by 37% to 20200m², necessitating the use of part of a third hall as bookings grew.

Within Metec, SMS Siemag occupied the greatest area of some 2000m² while Siemens VAI MT had the second largest stand at 1000m². Both companies are headquartered in Germany.

Almost two-thirds of exhibitors at Metec came from outside Germany. China dominated the foreign contingent by far with 73 exhibitors or nearly a quarter of all foreign participants. As well as major Chinese suppliers having their own stands the Metallurgical Council of China for the Promotion of International Trade (MC-

Country	Stands	Country	Stands
Germany	168	Belgium	10
China	73	Sweden	9
Italy	40	Netherlands	8
India	19	Russia	7
USA	19	Czech Rep	7
Turkey	17	Finland	6
Austria	15	Canada	5
France	14	Japan	3
Spain	13	Braz, Lux & Ukr	2
Switzerland	12	Others (7)	1
UK	11	Total	488

Table 1 Geographic distribution of exhibitors at Metec 2011



The Siemens VAI stand showed a full range of its portfolio including a coil of strip produced by Arvedi's ESP continuously linked caster mill process

CCPIT) hosted a pavilion of 11 companies.

The next largest foreign participant was Italy (40 exhibitors), followed jointly by India and USA (19 each) and then Turkey (17).

The growing number of Chinese exhibitors reflects the increasing confidence of the country as a recognised supplier of metallurgical plant and services.

Table 1 summarises the distribution.

Stands of notable merit for their impact, displays and hospitality included Siemens VAI for shear size, product range on show and a beer keg opened at 4pm each day; Inteco for its Austrian chalet, evening music and Austrian beer – all day; and Outotec for its stand display and Metec gingerbread hearts.

Not all companies familiar as suppliers to the steel industry were in the three Metec Halls as some had opted to be in one of the other shows. Furnace builder LOI Italmimpianti, for example, had a large stand in Thermprocess while its parent company Tenova Group was in Metec. Most of the analytical companies such as Bruker, Thermo Fisher and Arun Technology were in the Gifa halls.

Of the twelve and a half halls in use, Hall seven was given over to Universities and Colleges to display their R&D activities with Aachen, Bremen, Dortmund, Darmstadt, Kassel, Munich, Plze (CZ) and Saarland Universities all taking part.

A new accolade across all four shows was the award of an 'ecoMetals' logo to 28 companies whose products or processes made significant savings in energy offering potential savings of up to 60%. Companies familiar to the steel industry entitled to display this logo include Ebner for a preheating system for bell annealers, LOI Italmimpianti for a process to develop grain orientated electrical steel strip and also for a quench and temper system for steel plate and EMG Automation for their electromagnetic strip stabilisation system for the control of air



SMS Siemag dominated hall 5



LOI Italimpianti were one of only 28 companies awarded the ecoMetals logo for energy efficient technology



The art exhibition in Hall 15 offered a welcome respite

knives in coating lines. Full descriptions of the products of all 28 companies can be found at; www.messe-duesseldorf.de/metec_ca/media/gif1102_01536.pdf

A student competition was also run to build a lightweight model aircraft out of steel weighing less than 400g, prizes being awarded for the maximum flying time as demonstrated in the hall on Friday afternoon, how innovative the design was and the documentation of the entire development process.

Recognising the culture of industry, a display of sculptures and paintings was present in Hall 15 offering a pleasant interlude from the surrounding activities.

To view further details of all four shows visit www.gmtn.de

Universities competed to fly their lightweight steel model aircraft the furthest distance



Conference sessions

During the first three days of the shows five concurrent conferences took place. Four under the banner, 'Metec InSteelCon 2011' related to steel and were organised by the German Steel Federation VDEh. These were the 6th European Coke and Ironmaking Congress; the

7th European Continuous Casting Conference; the 4th International Conference on Modelling and Simulation and the 1st International Conference on Energy Efficiency and CO₂ Reduction in the Steel Industry. The other conference was the non-ferrous event the 6th European Metallurgical Conference (Emc2011), organised by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, Resource and Environmental Technology (GDMB).

Over 1000 delegates attended and 600 papers were presented in InSteelCon and 160 in Emc2011. A report on the Energy Efficiency and CO₂ Reduction conference is presented in this issue in the Sustainable Steel feature and a report on the continuous casting conference will be published in the October issue. ■