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IFAT 2005 Shatters Records with High Attendance

Increased visitor and exhibitor numbers highlight show's world-leading reputation

Chicago, IL., May 10, 2005 – A record number of international exhibitors and visitors flocked to the New Munich Trade Fair Centre for IFAT 2005 on April 25 – 29. New projects, technologies and services were showcased as 2,223 companies from 36 countries displayed their offerings to the massive crowd of visitors.

More than 108,000 visitors – a 10 percent increase from 2002 – from 166 countries around the world gathered to learn about the latest trends and product innovations in the sectors of water, sewage, solid waste and recycling.

“We’re very pleased with the number of contacts we made at IFAT,” said Michael Whittemore, Vice President, Corporate Office, for Polychem Systems, a Westchester, Pennsylvania based manufacturer of chain and flight sludge collectors. “We never really understood how extensive and profitable European trade shows were until we started coming to IFAT. We have had interest from potential customers from more than 30 countries.”

“We’ve been coming to IFAT for 15 years,” said Suzanne E. Vaughan, export sales manager for the Vaughan, Company, Inc., a Montesano, Washington based manufacturer of mixing systems and process equipment. “IFAT offers the widest spectrum of customers from around the world. We never miss this huge, huge show.”

Attendance was also very high at the program of accompanying events on scientific, technical, political and international topic, as more than 9,000 people participated in the many lectures and key note addresses. Specifically, China Day and Japan Day drew increased attention, as visitors gathered to learn the most promising market opportunities in these countries. Also, the German Association for Water Management, Waste Water and Waste Disposal (DWA) held its international symposium on water, sewage and waste during the show.

Everything at the “Gateway to New Europe” symposium, an additional program offered at IFAT 2005, revolved around the market opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe. This joint exhibit conducted with several exhibitors from the sectors for foreign trade, financing and economic development hosted more than 40 lectures on environmental projects in Central and Eastern Europe.

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Visitors to IFAT 2005 praised the scope and complete range of exhibits; in fact, more than 93 percent of the visitors surveyed gave this topic a rating of “good to excellent.” Also, 93 percent of those surveyed praised the presence of international market leaders in the exhibit halls.

The show also received complements and high marks from the exhibitors. Of the exhibitors surveyed, 95 percent gave the show an overall ranking of “good to excellent.” Also, 92 percent praised the show for attracting international visitors with buying authority.

The next IFAT will be held May 5 – 9, 2008 at the New Munich Trade Fair Centre.

IFAT China 2006 will be held for the second time on June 27 – 30, 2006 in Shanghai, China. IFAT China is an outstanding industry platform where international and Chinese companies can initiate business and make contacts. Foreign and Chinese exhibitors will display their products and services to trade visitors in the rapidly growing Chinese market.

Those wishing to exhibit at IFAT 2008 may contact Munich International Trade Fairs in New York, Anke Gruening at 646-437-1014 or agruening@munich-tradefairs.com.

IFAT 2008 At A Glance

WHAT: Largest worldwide trade show for environmental protection. Nearly 100,000 worldwide visitors and over 2,000 exhibitors are expected to attend.

WHEN: May 5 – 9, 2008
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

WHERE: New Munich Trade Fair Centre
Munich, Germany

VISITOR: To coordinate travel and accommodation needs, call Travel Trade International toll-free at 866-674-3476 or visit www.traveltradeint.com.

EXHIBITOR: Those interested in exhibiting may contact Munich International Trade Fairs in New York, Anke Gruening at 646-437-1014 or agruening@munich-tradefairs.com.

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Media can call Joe McGehee at 312-850-8201 for more information about the highlights of IFAT 2005. Digital photos available upon request.

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