

The exhibition brings the next event forward by one year to the 25th - 29th of October 2005 in the Gran Via M2 exhibition

BARCELONA: THE FIFTH MAQUITEC

The fifth Maquitech, which closed its doors in Fira de Barcelona's Gran Via M2 exhibition centre on Saturday the 23rd of October, recorded an audience of 26,566 visitors, 7% more than the previous show. The favourable opinions of exhibitors on trade contacts made at the fair indicate that Maquitech has once again been profitable for the metallurgy industry. The Maquitech "effect" will be seen in the order book of participating companies during the months to come, since many operations are closed once the exhibition is over.

According to data compiled by the organisers, 19,101 trade visitors were accredited through the Fir@key system, 18,680 of which were Spanish and 421 from abroad. 1,829 professionals visited more than once and dedicated at least two days to exploring Maquitech. With regard to parallel activities held within the setting of this industrial fair, a total of 390 people participated in various debate forums.

Visitors numbers were completed by: 2,381 students and teachers from training centres: 1,849 passes-invitations collected, 935 box office tickets and 81 communications media professionals accredited in the press room of Maquitech over five days of activity.

According to the president of the Organising Committee, Josep Morell, this year's Maquitech has confirmed it, once again, as a key fair for the sector, since 40% of the metallurgy industry's demand is concentrated in the North-East of Spain. In this sense, 80% of visitors came from Catalonia. Nonetheless, Maquitech recorded a considerable increase in the number of visitors from neighbouring Autonomous Communities (Comunidad Valenciana and Aragón) and other industrial areas Basque Country, Madrid, Andalusia and Asturias. The majority of foreign visitors came from

Italy, followed by Portugal, Germany and France.

Continued growth

This year, Maquitech brought together the offer of 1,452 companies, from 38 countries, represented at 404 stands, a 9% higher exhibitor participation than two years ago. The 25,690 m2 of exhibition space at Maquitech was also 2% more than at the 2002 fair.

The participation of foreign exhibitors was also almost double the number of the 2002 exhibition. This Fira de Barcelona fair has managed to progressively attract a higher number of foreign exhibiting companies -51 this year as opposed to 28 two years ago- interested in the Spanish market. Companies from Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Turkey participated in Maquitech 2004 with their own stand. With 33 companies, Italy was the foreign country with the highest direct representation in the Barcelona industrial fair.

All specialities of the metallurgy industry were present at Maquitech 2004, an exhibition that offers solutions for industrial processes, in which metal elements are manipulated, such as the motor industry, manufacture of domestic appliances, metal articles and pieces, construction, electrics and optics, among others, since it is a sector that crosses over into almost all economic activities.

The metallurgy sectors represented at Maquitech were stock-removing machine tools, metal-forming machine tools, welding, cutting tools, hydraulics and pneumatics, CAD/CAM, measuring and control, thermal and surface treatments, accessories, automatisms and tooling. This year, the subcontracting and engineering and support services sectors participated for the first time.

Visit from the Minister of Industry

The Minister of Industry, José Montilla, visited the fair on the closing day, Saturday, the 23rd of October, showing interest in the current climate of the metallurgy sector and the main new products presented and also exchanging impressions on the challenges faced by companies operating in this sphere. Montilla explained that "despite the maturity of the metal sector, this industry is showing a great capacity for innovation". The Minister also praised "the efforts of a large number of Spanish companies in the sector to be more competitive and to increase exports", concluding that these must be the keys of metallurgy activity.

New dates for the next fair

The next Maquitech will take place from the 25th to the 29th of October 2005, bringing the dates forward by one year. The Organising Committee of the exhibition has unanimously backed this new positioning of Maquitech in the calendar of trade fairs specialised in the metallurgy sector. Fira de Barcelona considers these new dates to be decisive in revalidating the growth of Maquitech and will allow companies to plan their trade fair strategies to give better results. From 2005, Maquitech will maintain a biennial frequency in odd years.

Maquitech is a trade show of Fira de Barcelona, the leading organiser of industrial and professional exhibitions in Spain and one of the first four in Europe in number of events.