

PRESS RELEASE

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Medical technology innovators in Nuremberg as MT-CONNECT and MedTech Summit 2018 begin

This year's trade fair for the supply and manufacturing sectors of the medical technology industry, MT-CONNECT, which takes place in Nuremberg on 11 and 12 April along with the international medical technology congress MedTech Summit, is featuring exhibitors from 13 countries. Alexander Stein, NürnbergMesse's event director for MT-CONNECT said: "The trade fair and congress are an international meeting place for innovators in the medical technology industry – from suppliers to manufacturers to users." Altogether, about 150 companies are exhibiting at the Exhibition Centre Nuremberg for what is the second edition of the event, and the Innovation Marketplace, whose purpose is advance dialogue between researchers, start-ups and manufacturers, is proving to be particularly popular. This special area is being sponsored by Medical Valley and EIT Health among others, and is offering even more variety this year than in 2017.

A quarter of the exhibitors at MT-CONNECT MedTech Summit 2018 are from outside of Germany. Most of these are from neighbouring European countries, with Austria, the Netherlands and Switzerland the biggest contributors, but by matching the number of Swiss exhibitors in its pavilion from Saitama, Japan has managed to share third place with Switzerland in the list of foreign contributors.

Network of innovators at the trade fair and congress and during partnering

In addition to the classic manufacturing sectors and the introduction of the new Medical Device Regulation (MDR), which is presenting medium-sized manufacturers and suppliers in particular with enormous challenges, innovations are at the centre of the trade fair and congress. Digitalization doesn't just play major role in the industry in general, but also features in

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many facets of the congress programme, in the services and products being showcased by the exhibitors and in the exhibition's forum.

Like MT-CONNECT, MedTech Summit is being actively supported by the German Medical Technology Association (BVMed) this year for the first time, and the association has been involved in putting together the congress's programme. The event's honorary sponsor is Europe's largest health-sector network, Forum MedTech Pharma e.V. Innovations will be brought up straight away, with Prof. Thomas Armin Schildhauer, Forum MedTech Pharma e.V.'s chairman, discussing the extent to which innovations in medical technology are based on clinical needs in his opening keynote speech. Next, Prof. Georg Duda from the Julius Wolff at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin will be talking about the technology trends expected to change healthcare. Dr Matthias Schier, the managing director at Forum MedTech Pharma e.V., said: "With over 40 presentations on everything from the MDR to usability and design to completely new methods such as 'frugal innovation', the congress is once again offering a very comprehensive programme. Our goal is that the congress will accelerate the transfer of innovations into everyday healthcare and also give the industry feedback on what medical practitioners really need."



The popular partnering aspect of MedTech-Summit offers opportunities for personal conversations: During appointments arranged in the run-up to the event, researchers, manufacturer, suppliers, consultants and service providers can discuss specific topics and initiate business relationships or partnerships.

Presentations and pitches in the exhibition forum

Short pitches in the exhibition forum are giving all exhibition and congress attendees the opportunity to familiarize themselves with exhibitors' products and services. Future-relevant topics such as the use of blockchains, virtual reality or big data are also on the agenda, and start-ups, some of which are being supported by Medical Valley or EIT Health, are presenting products on both days of the trade fair as well. Finally, a discussion led by German Accelerator Life Sciences will show young companies how they can enter the American health market successfully.



MedTech Dialog Bayern results with State Minister Pschierer

At 15:00 on 12 April, the MedTech Dialog Bayern task groups set up last year will be presenting their results. In a discussion with the Bavarian State Minister of Economic Affairs, Energy and Technology, Franz-Josef Pschierer, and a representative from the Bavarian State Ministry of Health and Care, the next steps in this joint development dialogue between politics, companies, service providers and paying authorities will be presented.



About MT-CONNECT and the MedTech Summit

The MT-CONNECT exhibition in conjunction with MedTech Summit – Congress & Partnering is the No. 1 networking platform for the international medical technology scene. MT-CONNECT has a distinct focus on suppliers and manufacturers of medical technology. Suppliers and service providers showcase their products and solutions for manufacturers and meet representatives from purchasing, product management and R&D departments. At the MedTech Summit, experts from the research, development and practical application fields discuss future developments in the industry from an interdisciplinary perspective. This unique blend of trade fair, congress and partnering event was designed in consultation with industry insiders and is supported by numerous industry associations. The honorary sponsor of the MT-CONNECT fair and MedTech Summit is Forum MedTech Pharma e.V., the largest network for the health sector in Germany and the rest of Europe. The organiser of the MedTech Summit is the Bavarian State Ministry for Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology, with Bayern Innovativ GmbH responsible for production and coordination.

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