

Digital ITHEC received a lot of positive feedback

Next edition to be a live in-person event again

Satisfied attendees, successful exhibitors, happy organizers: this was the bottom line of the first fully digital "ITHEC 2020 – 5th International Conference and Exhibition on Thermoplastic Composites". For three days, 387 experts from research and industry congregated at www.ithec.de to share information and ideas on new developments in the area of thermoplastic – i.e. heat-formable – composites (2018: 365). 55 exhibitors used the platform to present their current projects and products (2018: 52).

"We have received a lot of positive feedback from attendees and exhibitors alike," comments Daniel Schäfer, ITHEC Project Manager at CONGRESS BREMEN. For instance, Yannick Willemin from 9 T Labs wrote on LinkedIn: "You are definitely setting the bar high with your virtual edition." In addition to noting how smoothly everything went, Wouter Groupe, Assistant Professor at the University of Twente, commented: "Kudos to the Session Chairs who managed to simultaneously field questions and keep the discussion lively."

"From a technical perspective, almost everything worked out very well - of course it took everyone a little bit of getting used to the new way of doing things," says Schäfer. A 15-person crew managed the three parallel live streams of lectures, poster sessions, keynotes and discussions. The entire programme will now be available to attendees at www.ithec.de for another three months.

Thermoplastic composites are on trend

"The Conference and Exhibition underscored once again that working with thermoplastic composites is the trend of the future for highly technical applications," summarizes the Project Manager. "Our special on 3-D printing, for instance, allowed visitors to experience the enormous boost additive manufacturing is currently experiencing." The challenges now included process automation and the cost-efficient production of large quantities.

The next ITHEC will take place in two years; it is currently planned for October 2022.

"We are planning to hold a live in-person event, but this will of course depend on the development of the corona pandemic," explains Schäfer. "But we also want to pay tribute to the positive experiences with the digital version – such as the great networking opportunities – and incorporate these elements into future events."



About ITHEC:

CONGRESS BREMEN, M3B GmbH has been organising ITHEC with the Fibre Institute at the University of Bremen (FIBRE) since 2012. The event is the world's first and only conference with an accompanying professional exhibition in the sector.

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