

by Mauro Spinelli

HYBRID, SUSTAINABLE AND HOME-FEELING OFFICES. KEYWORDS AT ORGATEC 2022

Orgatec Cologne, leading trade fair in Europe entirely dedicated to the office environment, will take place from 25 to 29 October 2022 after four years since the last edition in 2018.

This year's event has been presented at the European Press Conference held on May 4, 2022 in Düsseldorf under the claim 'New Visions of Work'.

On this occasion, Oliver Frese, Koelnmesse GmbH-Chief Operating Officer, announced that the Organizers are looking optimistically ahead as the currently booked exhibition space - regarding the applications from abroad - has almost reached the level of 2018.

Overall, around 600 exhibitors from 35 countries are expected to attend (of which 400 already confirmed). On-site Orgatec will be staged in Halls 6 to 9 as well as in Halls 10.1 and 10.2.

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

According to IBA, the Interior Business Association, in the first quarter of 2022, manufacturers of office and contract furniture based in Germany reported an increase in sales of 9.2% compared to the same period of the previous year.

However, the ongoing price rise in supply markets and the uncertain impact of the war in Ukraine are causes for concern, as reported by Hendrik Hund, IBA-Deputy Chairman, during his speech at the Conference. Despite the shared uncertainties, IBA members expect to see considerable sales increases in the long run. Implementing hybrid work models requires from almost all companies



The European Press Conference for Orgatec 2022 held on May 4, in Düsseldorf

to make at least partial adjustments to the existing workspaces in their offices.

NEW WORKING PATTERNS

Working patterns have changed more rapidly in the last two years than at almost any other time before. Working from home and videoconferencing, multilocal and virtual working in agile teams have placed new demands on work environments. Workplaces need to become more flexible and more sustainable at the same time.

Therefore, the focal themes of the coming Orgatec edition will focus on the latest developments in the area of hybrid and flexible working and the related smart technologies.

The initial keywords in this connection are the progressing digitalisation and new technologies for efficient and sustainable building planning.



New patterns of work, key topics around the workplace and latest developments in the office furniture industry will be showcased at Orgatec 2022 in Cologne



Oliver Freese, Koelnmesse GmbH-Chief Operating Officer speaking at the Press Conference

Of course, new solutions for the equipment of flexible working environments - after and during the pandemic - also make up part of this, such as the transformation of the office into 'collaborative zones'.

In his presentation Dipl. Ing. Architect Antonino Vultaggio Senior Partner of HPP Architekten GmbH pointed out the focal role of office buildings in generating benefits for the community and creating added value for the area where they are located.

KEY TOPICS AROUND THE WORKPLACE

Well-being is a key theme in today's

office concepts, and recent studies show that the presence of green plants and other natural features can be of benefit for people while staying in their workplaces.

The trend towards biophilic design is therefore set to continue. Factors such as natural light, vegetation or naturalistic design offer a contrast to widespread technology and the hectic pace of urban life. Plants can also significantly improve indoor air quality.

The climate crisis remains one of the greatest challenges of our time and is playing an increasingly important role in new developments in the office industry. Manufacturers are therefore increasingly focusing on recycling as

well as on environmentally friendly and certified materials.

Even before the pandemic, work was already more and more freeing itself from fixed locations. This trend has also blurred the boundaries between design for the office and the home. While homes have become offices, offices are visibly transforming into home-like zones. Soft shapes and warm colours will define the new welcoming culture in the world of work.



Photo courtesy
Orgatec Koelnmesse GmbH/Inspired Collaborations