

PRESS RELEASE

April 2023



Two days of innovation, inspiration and networking for future technologies at the W3+ Fair Wetzlar 2023

Hamburg, April 03, 2023. The W3+ Fair Wetzlar 2023 came to a successful close on March 30. The networking fair kept its word: More than 150 exhibitors and speakers and over 1900 visitors used the platform in the Buderus Arena Wetzlar to exchange information about new innovations and solutions and to forge new alliances across industries. 27 percent of the exhibiting companies from the optics, photonics, electronics and mechanics sectors came from the high-tech region of Wetzlar/ Central Hesse, 48 percent from other German states and 25 percent from abroad - more than ever before. 10 countries were represented, including Switzerland, Italy, France, Great Britain, the USA and the Netherlands. The common goal was to launch new technology-driven innovations for medical technology, life science, automotive, aerospace or tools & machinery.

In addition to the exhibition, there was plenty of inspiration from the extensive supporting program. At the accompanying conference **en-tech.talks**, around 30 speakers spoke on topics such as optics manufacturing, photonics & microtechnology, innovative solutions from Hessen, trends in optics and others. A new feature was the attached **High Level Expert Meeting (HLEM)** of the Competence Center Ultraprecise Surface Processing UPOB e.V., which was held in parallel for the first time. The special areas of IHK Hessen innovativ as well as the one of VDI with AI, **3D printing, cobots and automation**, the **joint booth of the high-tech region Thuringia** as well as the special area "**Microtechnologies for optical devices**" of IVAM were well attended. The microtechnology network also used the trade show to hold the first live **meeting of the photonics specialist group**. The Regionalmanagement Mittelhessen got involved twice: with the **meeting of the new automotive network TeamMIT** on site and - together with the Business Angels Mittelhessen - with the top-class **Start-up Matching**. Wetzlar Network invited to the **C-Level Coffee**, in addition there was a visit of the **expert working group sensor technology** of the IHK Gießen-Friedberg as well as the Federal Association for Materials Management and Purchasing (BME e.V.).

Jörg Brück, Project Director of the W3+ Fair, draws a positive balance after the fair: "The W3+ Fair is the central industry fair for enabling technologies in Germany. People are happy about the inspiring cross-industry exchange with existing customers and new contacts. For the 10th anniversary next year, we want to focus even more on innovation, inspiration and networking and will enrich the concept accordingly."

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More information at [w3-fair.com](https://www.w3-fair.com)

Image material at [W3+ Fair press page](#) - under downloads

About the W3+ Fair

The event traces its roots back to an industry initiative organised in Wetzlar and Mittelhessen, and its objective is to interlink the four sectors of optics, photonics, electronics and mechanics. The aim is that new interfaces and points of contact will pave the way for forward-looking technologies. The trade fair debuted at the Rittal Arena in Wetzlar in February 2014. The W3+ Fair is organised by the Hamburg-based company, FLEET Events (www.fleet-events.de). In September 2019, the W3+ Fair Rheintal celebrated its premiere in the four-country high-tech region. In 2023, the organiser will expand its portfolio to include the W3+ Fair Jena.

About Fleet Events

Fleet Events GmbH, based in Hamburg, is one of Germany's leading private trade fair and conference organisers. In cooperation with its subsidiaries Fleet Education Events and CE Chefs Events, the company, set up in 2006, designs and stages consumer and business events such as Babini (previously Babywelt), Eat&Style and Heldenmarkt, professional events such as Chef-Sache, W3+ Fair and Photonics+, as well as the educational conferences DSLK, ÖSLK, DKLK, ÖKLK, HRocks and DILK. Fleet Events has developed, through its subsidiary Fleet X, its own online event platform using Xircus, allowing it now to offer online and/or hybrid events too. Overall, Fleet Events organises nowadays more than 50 major events a year, both live and online. This company with more than 60 employees is run by shareholders Dr Thomas Köhl and Christoph Rénevier.

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