

Fällanden, 22 November 2016

PRODEX and SWISSTECH – the most important showcase for Switzerland as an industrial centre

With over 50,000 visitors having converged on Basel to find out more about innovations and trends in the MEM industry, the trade fair power duo PRODEX and SWISSTECH has now come to an end. Despite the challenging economic climate, over 770 exhibitors presented their products and solutions. The organisers, the partner associations SWISSMEM, SWISSMECHANIC and tecnoswiss, and the exhibitors are delighted with the level of visitor interest.

Economists say that the Swiss MEM industry needs to work more productively and efficiently to safeguard Switzerland's status as an industrial centre in future. In answer to this challenge, the industry put on a dynamic and innovative show over the four days of the trade fair. Digitisation, automation and robotics are what make Industrie 4.0 possible and there was no mistaking this potential at the exhibitors' stands.

State-of-the-art trends in additive manufacturing and the whole digital transformation process were not just addressed at trade fair stands but also as part of specialist forums, the special exhibition and the Industrie 4.0 tour organised by Swissmem. When it comes to making decisions on investments or purchasing, the two leading industrial fairs, PRODEX and SWISSTECH, are clearly the main platforms.

Enthusiastic visitors to PRODEX

PRODEX attracted more than 30,000 visitors, who came to find out more from the 330 exhibitors in packed-out trade fair halls 1.0 and 1.1 – a slight increase on 2014. Herbert Sohm, Division Manager for machine tools at Walter Meier (Fertigungslösungen) AG, said: "This year's PRODEX was extremely important for

us. We were presenting here for the first time under our revamped image and we are now able to look back on the four days with great satisfaction in terms of numbers of visitors." Niklaus Alleman, Head of Sales at Blaser Swisslube AG, summed up his experiences as follows: "Our stand was constantly bustling with visitors throughout the trade fair. We had the chance to have lively discussions with existing customers, industry visitors, students and school pupils about increasing productivity." CEO of Igus Schweiz GmbH Lutz Alof gave his verdict on PRODEX: "There was a steady stream of visitors to our stand. We were part of the Industrie 4.0 tour and this led to some interesting discussions and contacts too."

Exhibitors pleased with SWISSTECH success

SWISSTECH was also very successful despite a difficult economic climate: 440 exhibitors showcased their products and solutions in trade fair halls 1.1 and 1.2 to around 21,000 industry visitors from purchasing, procurement, production and manufacturing. CEO of Kundert AG Stefan Kundert, describes his take on the trade fair: "We didn't have quite as many visits from existing customers this year, but we made lots of interesting contacts with new customers and the quality of our discussions was better than ever." Kerstin Schranz from Faigle Igoplast AG is also very pleased with how it went: "We are absolutely delighted with this year's SWISSTECH. We were able to make excellent, practical contacts." Martin Mechlinski, Senior Consultant at SAQ-Qualicon AG, seemed pleased too: "This was our first time at SWISSTECH. We are very pleased with how it went – this is exactly our target audience."

BIG KAISER wins the PRODEX Award

This year's PRODEX Award was the fifth to be presented. An impressive two out of the top three places were taken by technologies developed in Switzerland, with first place going to BIG KAISER for its digital EWD EVO boring heads with Industrie 4.0 capabilities. Newemag finished a happy second with its Miyano VC03 processing machine. Swiss firm Urma AG followed in third place, having developed a replaceable insert reaming system for small diameters.

Industry Skills 2016: Swiss experts unveiled

A total of 60 participants were hard at work at both trade fairs throughout the week. Industry Skills is an important platform for promoting talent in the MEM

industry. It was jointly organised by the associations Swissmechanic and Swissmem. The new professional champions from automation (team of two), electronic and structural engineering as well as polytechnicians in CNC milling, CNC turning and automation were crowned on the final day of the trade fair. The gold medal winners of Industry Skills 2016 have the honour of representing their profession at the upcoming "WorldSkills 2017" professional championships in Abu Dhabi.

The last word goes to Iris Sorgalla, Show Director of PRODEX and SWISSTECH, who was also delighted: "Despite a difficult economic climate in the MEM and subcontracting industry, the PRODEX/SWISSTECH power duo has once again proved to be the most important industry event in Switzerland. Exhibitors have spoken very highly of the exceptional quality and decision-making power of our visitors, which have helped make the events such a success."

The majority of the exhibitors are convinced that the trade fair power duo can help Switzerland strengthen its status as an industrial centre. The next PRODEX and SWISSTECH will be held from 20 to 23 November 2018 in Basel.

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Swarms of industry visitors descended on the trade fair power duo PRODEX & SWISSTECH each day:



The ten companies nominated for this year's fifth Prodex Award:

