

Exhibiting Conditions

HeatTreatmentCongress (HK) 2026/31st IFHTSE World-Congress/ECHT 2026/ Steel Innovation

Hall 10.2 Cologne trade fair

1. EVENTS

HK 2026 is specialist industry congresses presenting scientific findings of development and research projects in approx. 60 lectures. The Congress is accompanied by an exhibition of corporate members of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Wärmebehandlung und Werkstofftechnik e. V. (German association for Heat Treatment and Materials Science). **The opportunity to exhibit is only available to corporate members of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Wärmebehandlung und Werkstofftechnik e. V. (AWT).**

2. EVENT ORGANISER

F&E Technologiebroker Bremen GmbH
Wiener-Straße 12
28359 Bremen
Germany

3. EVENT VENUE and DATES/TIMES:

Koelnmesse GmbH
Hall 10.2
Messeplatz 1
50679 Cologne
Germany

Exhibition opening times:

Tuesday, 13 October 2026, 9 pm to 6 pm
Wednesday, 14 October 2026, 9 am to 6 pm,
Thursday, 15 October 2026, 9 am to 4 pm

Exhibition set-up:

Saturday, 10 October 2026, 7 am – 11 pm
Sunday, 11 October 2026, 7 am – 11 pm
Monday, 10 October 2026, 7 am – 9 pm

Exhibition dismantling:

Thursday, 15 October 2026, 4 pm – 12 pm
Friday, 16 October 2026, 7 am - 5 pm

Any structures remaining after the dismantling period will be disposed of at the exhibitor's expense. The costs incurred will be invoiced to the exhibitor.

4. PARTICIPATION FEES

4.1 Prices acc. to base area of the exhibition stand per sqm

(Without stand building and fittings)

up to 40 m ²	214.00 € / sqm
41 – 60 m ²	208.00 € / sqm
61 – 80 m ²	201.00 € / sqm
81 – 120 m ²	182.00 € / sqm
121 m ² and more	174.00 € / sqm

Prices plus 19% VAT.

The minimum size for an exhibition stand is 12 m². For each 10 m² of exhibition stand space, the exhibitor will be provided with one free ticket for exhibitors.

4.2 Media fee

In addition to the stand booking, each exhibitor and each co-exhibitor is required to pay a mandatory media fee of 299.00 € plus 19 % VAT. This fee serves to publish exhibitor data on the website and to support the public relations work in electronic and print media.

5. REGISTRATION

5.1 Stand registration

The registration for an exhibition stand must be submitted using the form "Standbuchung/Registration HK 2026". This registration constitutes an irrevocable contractual offer to the event organiser and the exhibitor will be bound by it until the start of the event. The registration will be legally valid 14 days following submission. The stand registration relates to the area size of a stand, not the fittings.

5.2 Inclusion of contractual conditions

The Exhibiting Conditions will be acknowledged as binding upon signing. The signatory is required to ensure that the persons it employs at the event likewise comply with the terms and conditions, and guidelines.

5.3 Joint exhibitors

If several exhibitors wish to share a stand space, an authorised representative must be named in the registration form for each co-exhibitor, who is thus liable for the co-exhibitor's affairs. The main exhibitor is responsible for the stand space. All exhibiting partners must be corporate members of AWT. All co-exhibitors will be charged the media fee. Co-exhibitors are not entitled to free exhibitor tickets.

6. CONCLUSION OF CONTRACT

6.1 Confirmation of participation

If the event organiser decides to accept the offer, it will indicate this by issuing a confirmation of participation. (Admission of the exhibitor and the registered exhibition articles).

6.2 Exclusion of/restriction on exhibitors

Certain exhibitors may be excluded from participating if there are objectively justified reasons. The same applies with respect to exhibition articles. An objectively justified reason is established particularly if the exhibitor fails to observe the safety regulations and technical stipulations of Koelncongress GmbH.

6.3 Deviations from the registration

In the event that the exhibition organiser accepts the registration of the requested exhibition space or the exhibition articles with additions, restrictions or other changes, it will be bound to the amended offer for 14 days.

7. APPROVAL, PLACEMENT, STAND DESIGN AND TRANSFER TO THIRD PARTIES

7.1 Approval and placement

Exhibition approval is granted to corporate members of Arbeitsgemeinschaft Wärmebehandlung und Werkstofftechnik e. V. (AWT) only. The decision concerning the approval of trade fair stands and exhibits as well as the spatial arrangement will be taken by F&E Technologiebroker Bremen GmbH. If necessary, the event organiser is entitled to change the layout and position of the allocated space. The exhibitor will be promptly notified of the necessity of such measures, whereby the event organiser will, if possible, attempt to allocate it another stand of equivalent value. If the stand hire rate is changed, a reimbursement or retrospective billing will be performed. The exhibitor is entitled, within one week of receiving notice, to withdraw its registration; damages are precluded on both sides. The exhibitor must accept the possibility that the position of the other spaces may have changed by the time that event starts compared to the time of the approvals; it cannot derive any claims on this basis. The exhibitor is not able to derive any claims whatsoever from the relocation of the other participants.

The confirmation of the stand registration will be dispatched by post or e-mail. The www.hk-si.de website will contain conditions and information for stand constructors as well as an online portal for ordering equipment.

7.2 Stand design

The design and fittings of the trade fair stand are generally at the discretion of the exhibitor. The trade fair stand must be adapted to the overall exhibition plan. The exhibitor will bear the costs for the design and fittings of the trade fair stand. The event organiser has the right to prohibit unsuitably or inadequately displayed stands.

7.3 Contractual penalty

If the exhibitor culpably infringes the aforementioned provisions, following the issue of one unsuccessful reminder the event organiser may impose a contractual penalty of 500 Euro per day of the event.

7.4 Transferral of stand to third parties

The exhibitor is not entitled, without the written permission of the event organiser, to wholly or partially sub-hire the stand space allocated to it or to allow it to be used by third parties or to exchange it. If no registration for a joint exhibition was submitted, the event organiser is entitled to clear the trade fair stand or charge an additional 50% of the stand hire rate.

8. PAYMENT CONDITIONS AND ASSIGNMENT

8.1 Payment conditions

The invoice for the stand rental rate will be delivered separately from the rental confirmation from May 2020.

8.2 Invoicing

The invoicing of the base area will be effected together with the invoicing of each exhibitor and co-exhibitor for the mandatory media fee of 299 € plus 19% VAT (see § 4.2).

8.3 Assignment or offset against claims

The assignment of claims against F&E Technologiebroker Bremen GmbH is prohibited. The setting-off of claims is only permissible in respect of undisputed claims or claims confirmed by a final court judgement.

8.4 Complaints

Complaints must be raised promptly in writing, but no later than within one week following receipt of the invoice. Objections raised after this time will not be acknowledged.

8.5 Due date of payment

100% of the stand rental rate is due for payment without deduction within 14 days following the date of the invoice.

8.6 Delay

In the event that the exhibitor is in default of payment, the event organiser will be entitled to charge interest at 8% above the base interest rate as well as an administration charge of 5.00 Euro for each additional reminder. This does not affect the right to claim further damages due to delay.

8.7 Lessor's lien

For the purpose of securing its claims, F&E Technologiebroker Bremen GmbH reserves the right to exercise a lessor's lien.

9. EXHIBITS

9.1 Removal, substitution of exhibits

Exhibits weighing over 500 kg must be registered and approved in writing. It is only permissible to exhibit the

exhibits agreed. The maximum floor load of 20 kN/sqm must never be exceeded. The exhibitor will be liable for damage caused by exhibits or their movement.

9.2 Exclusion

The event organiser may demand that articles be removed, if these do not correspond to the technical requirements or which appear to be dangerous or which cause inconvenience. The event organiser has discretion in prohibiting the operational start-up of machinery and equipment. If such a demand is not complied with, the event organiser shall be entitled to remove said exhibits at the cost of the exhibitor.

9.4 Industrial property protection

The exhibitor is required to ensure that copyright and other industrial property rights to the exhibition articles are respected.

10. STAND SET-UP / DISASSEMBLY

10.1 Stand set-up:

The set-up of stands in the exhibition halls may be commenced on the day specified as the first day of set-up and must be completed by the time specified. Set-up and disassembly works are absolutely prohibited during the event. The spatial area ordered and confirmed is labelled in the registration form. Customer stands or rented stands may not be erected on the floor space. **The constructed height of stands not requiring approval in Hall 10.2. is 4.50 m.** Stand constructions on the stand boundaries of neighbouring exhibitors must be designed in a neutral manner from a height of over 2.50 m. Ceiling-mounted suspensions must be ordered by the online-portal and will be installed by Cologne trade fair staff. The exhibitor undertakes to observe the technical guidelines of Koelncongress GmbH and to forward these to its stand construction contractor. Two-storey structures are not permitted.

10.2 Fire prevention

A valid test certificate detailing the flame resistance of construction elements (DIN 4102 B1) must be presented to the fire safety officers for the technical approval of the trade fair stands. If this confirmation cannot be presented, the authorised Fire Safety Officer will be entitled to remove the articles at the cost of the exhibitor.

The following conditions of the competent public authorities are to be noted and observed in relation to stand construction materials, design and decorations:

- The technical fire prevention installations throughout the exhibition area, such as emergency exits, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, information signs etc. must be kept clear at all times and may not be covered over.
- The use of naked flames for cooking, heating and operating purposes and naked lights is subject to approval.
- Decorative materials on the exhibition stand may only be made from materials of low flammability. A certificate to this effect must be kept at the trade fair stand.

- In the event that stands have added roofing, the following must be observed in order that the sprinkler system remains functional:

- a) Ceilings are not permitted.
 - b) A certificate detailing the sprinkler compatibility of the material must be stored at the exhibition stand.
- Packing materials, paper and other easily flammable material may not be stored in the halls, trade fair stands and walkways.
 - The use of pressurised gas cylinders is generally prohibited.
 - Supplementary electrical systems for exhibition articles must be installed in accordance with VDE regulations and in such a way as to prevent any damage or risk of accidents.
 - Any electrical devices that are activated and which generate heat must be placed on non-flammable bases with low thermal conductivity.

All stand constructions are in any event subject to the technical guidelines of Koelncongress GmbH.

10.3 Stand disassembly:

It is particularly important that the disassembly deadline be adhered to as set out in No. 3 of the Exhibiting Conditions. Disassembly of the trade fair stands may only commence after the end of the congress event. For stand structures that are not dismantled after the end of the dismantling period, a fee of 1000 euros will be levied on the exhibitor in addition to the disposal fee.

11. INSTALLATION OF POWER AND WATER

The entire electrical set-up must be installed in accordance with the most recent safety regulations of the VDE (Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies). If ordered by the online portal, each trade fair stand will be provided with one main connection. This will be installed at a charge on behalf of the exhibitor by a service provider of Koelncongress GmbH. If trade fair stands contain additional electrical installations, the regulations of the VDE must be upheld by all means. The power consumption is included in the rental price for the exhibition space. Three-phase power must be ordered separately, and the exhibitor will be invoiced for the consumption.

If required, a water supply connection can be ordered by the online-portal and installed for a charge by a service provider of Koelncongress GmbH. Water may be used for catering/hospitality purposes only. It is prohibited to start-up production plants with the water supply without approval of the organiser. In the event of any infringements here, the event organiser will be entitled to demand a payment of a penalty amounting to 5,000 Euro. Floor conduits in operation for water and wastewater must remain accessible, because any water damage caused will otherwise be excluded from the insurance cover.

12. LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER AND INSURANCE

12.1 Liability in the event of deliberate acts and gross negligence

In the event of any deliberate acts or gross negligence, the event organiser is only liable for the culpable actions of its statutory representatives and managerial employees, unless there has been an infringement of material contractual obligations ("cardinal duties", or loss of life, physical injury, or damage to health).

In the case of slight negligence, the event organiser is only liable for the breach of material contractual obligations, or loss of life, physical injury, or damage to health. The event organiser is only liable, irrespective of the legal reason, for foreseeable damage typical for this type of contract. Liability for ordinary negligence is excluded. Other liability is only assumed as per the statutory liability, provided a corresponding insurance policy has been concluded, the relevant insurance company confirms it has a duty to fulfil the claim with the said liability being restricted to a maximum of twice the insured amount.

12.2 Strict liability

Any strict liability of the event organiser for defects already in existence as defined under Section 536(1) German Civil Code (BGB) is expressly excluded. In this respect the event organiser is not liable for the exhibits or the stand equipment or any other consequential damage suffered by the exhibitor.

12.3 Liability for consequential damage

The event organiser assumes no liability whatsoever for consequential damage caused by any erroneous and/or incomplete contents in the oral presentations and/or event documentation.

12.4 Non-compliance with accident prevention regulations

The event organiser excludes any personal liability with respect to the exhibitor's failure to comply with the accident prevention regulations.

12.5 Notification of police

Damage must be promptly reported in writing both to the police as well as the event organiser. In the case of damage the event organiser will only pay damages equal to fair value upon presentation of written proof of the procurement costs.

12.6 Exclusion

Liability is excluded in respect to any other personal injury, property damage or financial loss sustained on the exhibition area including within the buildings. This particularly encompasses damage caused by fire, water, explosions, violent attacks, storms and other forms of force majeure or by theft, burglary, and failure of utilities such as power, gas, water and similar cases, as well as a result of the safety regulations. This also applies to damage caused by the movement of people (visitors and other exhibitors etc. as well as by employees or contractors of the event organiser or by other circumstances. This shall also include the erroneous statements and actions of the organisers, their employees and representatives.

The organisers shall not be liable for material damage and personal injury to the stand or the exhibits. The payment of damages is precluded if the exhibitor's delay in reporting the damage results in the event organiser's insurance company refusing to assume responsibility for payment of damages.

12.7 Liability of the exhibitor

The exhibitor shall be liable to the organisers for damages caused by it, irrespective of whether it has been caused by it, its employees, representatives, or its exhibits. In the event that a lump sum of damages is claimed, the event organiser reserves the right to demonstrate that a higher amount of loss has been sustained. The exhibitor is entitled to demonstrate that a lower amount of loss was actually sustained. To ensure the payment of such damages, the exhibitor is duty bound to arrange insurance for the exhibition with a German-based insurance company.

13. Building by-laws and traffic regulations

The building by-laws of Koelncongress GmbH apply within the exhibition area. Traffic on the exhibition centre site is restricted to a maximum speed of 30 km/h. Otherwise the public road traffic regulations apply. Payable parking spaces for trucks and mobile homes will be allocated. Vehicles parked in breach of regulations will be removed; recovery of vehicle will require payment of a penalty. The instructions of the staff of Koelnmesse/Koelncongress must be strictly followed.

14. CANCELLATION/NON-ATTENDANCE AND RE-SCISSION

14.1 Cancellation, non-attendance

The registration for a stand space is binding and will be legally enforceable 14 days following the submission of the registration form. The amount set out in the invoice will remain payable if the exhibitor cancels its participation and fails to attend without issuing a cancellation. In the event that the event organiser is able to lease the space to another party, it will have the right to demand that the first customer cancelling the contract contribute up to 25% of the costs billed to the event organiser. The full invoice amount is then payable if F&E Technologiebroker Bremen GmbH relets the agreed stand space, but the entire leased space is nevertheless reduced through the cancellation or non-attendance of the exhibitor. **In case of cancellation the participation after 31 July 2026, the full invoice amount is due for payment.**

14.2 Rescission of contract by F&E Technologiebroker Bremen GmbH

The event organiser is entitled to rescind the contract if,

- a) the invoice for the rented space is not settled by 31 July 2026,
- b) the trade fair stand is not visibly occupied in good time, i.e., no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the event,
- c) the exhibitor is in infringement of the building by-laws

and fails to desist from such conduct despite having received a warning,

d) the pre-conditions required of the exhibitor for the issue of approval by the event organiser are no longer fulfilled. The same applies if reasons become subsequently evident, which, had they been known at the time, would have resulted in the exhibitor being excluded from attending. This is particularly the case if insolvency proceedings are commenced against the exhibitor or if it becomes unable to service its debts. The exhibitor is required to promptly notify the event organiser of such circumstances arising. The event organiser reserves the right to claim damages in these cases.

15. SECURITY AND CLEANING

15.1 Security

The exhibition will be generally guarded by Koelncongress GmbH. This security service does not affect the liability and disclaimer provisions set out in Section 12. The exhibitor is personally responsible for inspecting its stand and its exhibits and for accommodating possible damage by arranging suitable insurance cover. Valuable, easily removable articles must be kept under lock and key at night. Any additional guarding of the stand must be ordered by the online portal at the cost of the exhibitor.

15.2 Cleaning

The exhibitor is personally responsible for cleaning its specific stand.

16. ORDER PLACEMENT

If not performed by the contracted stand construction firm, other skilled jobs and services may only be carried out by Koelncongress GmbH's own service team.

17. MISCELLANEOUS

17.1 Advertising

It is prohibited to distribute, publicly display, or place advertising materials outside of the display stands. Advertising is only permitted within the rented stand and only for the exhibitor company. Political adverts are prohibited as a rule. Inscriptions and affixing posters on the walls and pillar of the hall are prohibited.

17.2 Control over the building

During the event the event organiser has general control within the areas leased by it. The exhibitor is subject to this control during the event. The entire area is subject to public rules and regulations and the technical guidelines of Koelncongress GmbH.

17.3 Public permits

The exhibitor must ensure that the requisite public permits are available for its activities and those of its representative at the stand or in the exhibition centre premises and that the applicable commercial law and police regulations are complied with.

17.4 GEMA FEES

The appropriate registration must be made with GEMA

[Society for musical performing and mechanical reproduction rights] in the event that the exhibitor intends to use copyright-protected music or music performances by playing radio or television programs. The exhibitor must ensure this registration is made. It alone is responsible for the payment of the fees incurred.

18. DISPOSAL OF WASTE AND RUBBISH

The waste and rubbish accumulated during the assembly and disassembly of the stand and during the event must be disposed of by the party responsible for causing it. Statutory regulations mean that the said party must ensure said materials are properly disposed of. (Waste Avoidance, Recycling and Disposal Act 27.9.1994, BGBL (Federal Law Gazette) 1, p. 2705).

Therefore, for **each** stand a notification of disposal must be sent to the contractor appointed by the event organiser. The disposal contractor will then enter the quantity of waste disposed of before, during and after the event or if the consultancy company itself will attend to said disposal.

19. FORCE MAJEURE

19.1 Cancellation of the event

If the event organiser is unable to hold the event due to a circumstance for which neither it nor the exhibitors are responsible (force majeure), the event organiser will demand a payment of at least 25% of the agreed fee from the exhibitor.

19.2 Events already underway

If force majeure necessitates that the event organiser curtails an event already underway, the exhibitor has no entitlement to repayment or waiver of the stand rental rate. Claims for damages are excluded on both sides in such cases.

20. DATA PROTECTION

The exhibitor and co-exhibitor hereby consent to the forwarding of their address data by the organizer to service-providing companies for the purpose of carrying out the event. With these companies, the organizer has concluded contracts for order processing, which regulate the confidential handling of personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (DSGVO).

21. Corona Protection Ordinance

The Corona Protection Ordinance of the Federal States of Germany of Nordrhein-Westfalen applies. Any related hygiene measures on the exhibition stands must be implemented by the exhibitors.

22. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

22.1 Written form

Deviations and amendments to this agreement must be made in writing.

22.2 Court

The court with jurisdiction over all reciprocal duties is the Court of Bremen.

22.3 German law

This agreement is subject to the law of the Federal Republic of Germany. The German wording is binding.

22.4 Limitation period

The exhibitor's claims against the event organiser are subject to a limitation period of 6 months, unless strictly applicable statutory provisions dictate otherwise. The limitation period will commence upon the expiry of that month in which the final say of the event falls.

22.5 Severability clause

If any individual provisions of these Exhibiting Conditions are ineffective, this will not affect the validity of the remaining provisions. The ineffective provisions will be amended in such a way that the intended objective is achieved.

Bremen, 07th October 2024