

Press release

IFAT Munich 2026 kicks off:

These highlights will shape the trade fair week

27. April 2026

For 60 years, IFAT Munich has been the global meeting place for environmental technologies. The next edition of the world-leading trade fair kicks off in just a few days, putting the spotlight for policymakers and industry on key future issues relating to water and raw material security. In 2026, IFAT Munich is not only attracting significant attention from business and politics, but also offering a diverse program with more than 400 events addressing the most pressing issues of our time.

Overview of the key dates and program items:

- IFAT Munich will be opened on Monday, May 4 at 10:00 by Germany's Environment Minister **Carsten Schneider**, EU Commissioner **Jessika Roswall**, and Bavaria's Environment Minister **Thorsten Glauber**.
- The focus on Monday will also be on the Spotlight Area Hydrogen. It will showcase specific applications and prospects for the use of hydrogen in circular systems and will be opened at 13:30 by Bavaria's Minister of Economic Affairs **Hubert Aiwanger**.
- The **European Water Industry Summit** will take place on Tuesday, May 5. At 10:30 on the Blue Stage, a panel of distinguished experts will discuss water as a key strategic factor for resilience and sustainable growth.
- Also on Tuesday, May 5, the **Federation of German Industries (BDI)** and the **Boston Consulting Group** will present their study on the competitiveness of German industry through the circular economy.

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Among the speakers on the Orange Stage at 12:30 will be Holger Lösch, Deputy Managing Director of the BDI.

- On Wednesday, May 6, the **European top-level talk on the circular economy** will examine the role of circular business models within the Clean Industrial Deal. Representatives from the European Commission, industry, and the financial sector will discuss how Europe can ensure its competitiveness in the long term.

A detailed overview of the event program, including all the speakers, topics and dates can be found at this [link](#).

Facts & figures about IFAT Munich 2026

IFAT Munich 2026 is impressive not only because of its line-up of representatives from politics and business, but also because of the many exhibitors and visitors from all over the world, enriching the trade fair with their topics. For environmental technology, the world-leading trade fair is both the central networking event and a knowledge hub. A few figures are impressive proof of that:

- Over **3,300 exhibitors**, with more than **55 percent** of them from abroad, are showcasing their solutions. More than **142,000 visitors** from around 170 countries are expected—a clear sign of how important IFAT Munich is internationally.
- IFAT Munich occupies a total of **300,000 square meters of exhibition space**—the equivalent of around **42 soccer pitches**. A highlight in the outdoor area are the live demonstrations featuring more than **110 machines and vehicles**, including electric and hydrogen-powered models live in action.
- **Public transport** is included in the ticket price, with well over **60 percent of visitors** expected to use it. Added to that is the subway running a more frequent service as well as comprehensive logistics solutions on site.

- With tens of thousands of international guests, Munich's hotels, restaurants, and beer gardens will be very busy. In addition, visitors can camp right on the exhibition grounds—an option that is already in high demand. More than **400 overnight stays** have already been booked.

IFAT Munich

IFAT Munich is the world's leading platform for environmental technologies. Every two years, it presents solutions for water, recycling and circularity. The next IFAT Munich will be held at the exhibition center in Munich from May 4 to 7, 2026.

IFAT worldwide

In addition to the world's leading trade fair IFAT Munich, IFAT is currently the world's largest network for environmental technologies with eleven trade fairs. The global IFAT network includes IE expo China in Shanghai, IE expo Chengdu, IE expo Guangzhou and IE expo Shenzhen as well as IFAT Africa in Johannesburg, IFAT Eurasia in Istanbul, IFAT India in Mumbai, IFAT Delhi in New Delhi, IFAT Brasil in São Paulo, Singapore International Water Week (in cooperation with IFAT) in Singapore and, from 2026, IFAT Saudi Arabia in Riyadh. Together, the events of the IFAT network are driving the transformation toward sustainable technologies worldwide.

Messe München

As one of the leading trade fair organizers, Messe München presents the world of tomorrow at its around 90 international trade fairs. Its portfolio comprises trade fairs for capital and consumer goods, as well as for new technologies. These include 14 of the world's leading trade fairs such as bauma, BAU, IFAT and electronica, cooperative events such as the IAA MOBILITY, and numerous guest events. With an international network of affiliated companies and foreign representatives, Messe München is active worldwide. Together with its around 1,200 employees in the Group, it organizes trade fairs in China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Thailand, the U.S., and Saudi Arabia. Around 150 events held annually attract more than 50,000 exhibitors and around three million visitors in Germany and abroad. That makes Messe München an important economic driver, triggering purchasing power effects in the billions.