

# Final Report

## Record IFAT Munich

### The world's leading trade fair for environmental technologies reflects global growth in the industry

May 17, 2024

- Around 142,000 visitors from nearly 170 countries and regions
- 3,211 exhibitors from 61 countries and regions
- 300,000 square meters of exhibition space

IFAT Munich 2024, which took place from May 13 to 17 at the Munich Exhibition Center, ended with a top attendance: Around 142,000 visitors from nearly 170 countries and regions attended the world's leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management. This corresponds to the record level of 2018. The share of international visitors was over 50 percent and thus higher than ever. The number of international exhibitors also reached a new record: 55 percent of the 3,211 exhibitors came from abroad. Companies from a total of 61 countries and regions took part in the trade fair. With 300,000 square meters of space, IFAT Munich 2024 was also the largest ever.

#### Industry highlights innovation leadership

“IFAT Munich provides encouragement and gives us strength for the future,” says Stefan Rummel, CEO of Messe München. “The challenges of our time, such as the climate crisis or the shortage of raw materials, can only be solved with technology. Whether it's the transformation of municipalities towards more climate resilience or industry towards a more circular economy: IFAT Munich is the event which presents solutions for our future. I am delighted that IFAT Munich has received more attention than ever this year, from politics and business, to associations and companies.”

For the Chairman of the IFAT Munich Advisory Board, Dr. Johannes F. Kirchhoff, this year's event was “an absolute highlight. Where else can you meet the most

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important representatives from the industry from all over the world in just five days? I am very impressed by the variety of technologies and innovations that were presented here. The environmental technology sector is undoubtedly one of the most innovative industries at the moment – this was clearly demonstrated here at IFAT Munich.”

### **“Immense challenges for the circular economy”**

The key issues at IFAT Munich this year centered around how the world can adapt to climate change and actively protect the environment, for example by achieving international climate protection targets. The circular economy plays a key role, as it can help to effectively reduce the (primary) raw materials that need to be used. “In an increasingly technological world with ever more complex products, the circular economy is facing immense challenges. At IFAT, we can discuss these issues with customers, partners and new contacts and work on solutions together,” says Thomas Conzendorf, member of the Remondis Management Board. “IFAT is an important forum for us as a group because it combines the relevant topics and issues of the water and recycling industries in the most efficient way.”

### **Adapting to climate change is essential**

Communities play a special role on the path to better climate resilience. When it comes to dealing with heavy rainfall and flooding, extreme heat and water shortages, they rely on effective technological solutions. “IFAT Munich 2024 was once again a very good platform for mutual exchange and for advancing developments in various industries. Water and wastewater management, waste and recycling industries are very important for promoting the circular economy and climate resilience. Water, energy, the environment and climate are among the most important issues of our time,” says Rainer Köhler, CEO of Huber SE. “My personal impression of this year's IFAT is very positive: At our Huber booth we had many interested visitors from our relevant areas: Wastewater treatment plant operators, sewage treatment plant operators, planners, engineering offices, representatives from local authorities and industry and many more from Germany and abroad.”

## **Environmental technologies — a global issue**

The importance of the topics and environmental technologies presented at IFAT Munich is also demonstrated by the increased internationality, especially from overseas. “China ranked third among the exhibitors this year with strong participation. The country is also in the top ten in visitor numbers,” explains Philipp Eisenmann, Exhibition Director of IFAT Munich: “We have also seen strong growth in visitors from the USA, Australia, India, Japan and South Korea. Environmental technologies and solutions are the growth market worldwide and IFAT Munich is THE platform.”

The next IFAT Munich will be held at the exhibition center in Munich from May 4 to 8, 2026.

**You can find more information about IFAT Munich at <https://ifat.de/en/>**

### **IFAT Munich**

IFAT Munich is the world’s largest and leading environmental technology trade fair. Every two years, the world-leading trade show presents solutions for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management as well as strategies to make maximum use of resources and to close raw material cycles. The next IFAT Munich will be held at the exhibition center in Munich from May 4 to 8, 2026.

### **IFAT worldwide**

In addition to the world’s leading trade fair, IFAT, Messe München has wide-ranging expertise in organizing other international environmental technology trade fairs. These include IE expo China in Shanghai, IE expo Chengdu in Chengdu, IE expo Guangzhou in Guangzhou, IE expo Shenzhen in Shenzhen, IFAT Africa in Johannesburg, IFAT Eurasia in Istanbul, IFAT India in Mumbai, IFAT Delhi in New Delhi, Singapore International Water Week (in cooperation with IFAT) in Singapore as well as IFAT Brasil in São Paulo from 2024 onward. Together, the ten IFAT events constitute the world’s largest network for environmental technologies.

### **Messe München**

As one of the world’s leading trade fair organizers, Messe München presents the world of tomorrow at its more than 90 international trade fairs. These include eleven of the world’s leading trade fairs such as bauma, BAU, IFAT, electronica, and ISPO. Its portfolio comprises trade fairs for capital and consumer goods, as well as for new technologies. Together with its subsidiaries, it organizes trade fairs in China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Thailand, and the U.S. With a network of over 15 associated companies and almost 70 offices worldwide, Messe München is active in more than 130 countries. The more than 150 events held annually attract around 50,000 exhibitors and around three million visitors in Germany and abroad.