

Press release

Long-term analysis: Environmental technologies defy market environment and enter IFAT Munich year with positive expectations for the future

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- Future Monitor: Long-term analysis evaluates exhibitor surveys from the last 13 years
- Assessment of current economic situation has been increasingly critical since 2018
- Exhibitors look with growing optimism at how the industry is developing

Even in challenging times, environmental technologies remain a reliable future market, according to a long-term analysis for which IFAT Munich evaluated exhibitor surveys from the past 13 years. In cooperation with the Gelszus Trade Fair Market Research Institute, exhibitors at the world-leading trade fair were asked: How do you assess the current economic situation in your sector – regardless of trade fair business? And how do you think this situation will change in the coming years?

High resilience in dealing with global upheaval

The analysis illustrates how resilient the sector is in responding to external shocks. Neither economic fluctuations nor severe global crises such as the pandemic led to a sustained decline in future valuations. Although the industry has been increasingly critical since 2018 in its assessment of the current economic situation, companies still firmly believe that investment in infrastructure, resource efficiency and the circular economy will be continued or expanded in the coming years.

This perspective sets the trend for the upcoming IFAT Munich 2026 (May 4 to 7, 2026). After all, the focus of the world-leading trade fair is exactly where the

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industry sees its strongest future driver: in the transition from linear to circular value chain models. “Companies very clearly recognize that recycling, resource conservation and efficient infrastructures are not just ecological necessities, but rather economic and security policy imperatives,” says Exhibition Director Philipp Eisenmann. “That is also reflected in the extraordinary resilience and stability of future expectations over more than a decade.”

IFAT Munich 2026: Circularity is a must

With “Circularity is a must”, IFAT Munich 2026 is sending a clear signal: Circularity creates strategic supply security, reduces dependencies, and keeps critical raw materials in a closed loop system, while at the same time enabling new business models, innovations and value creation in future markets. In doing so, it combines ecological necessity with economic rationality – and shows that circular entrepreneurship is becoming a decisive success factor for competitive, resilient, and sustainably prosperous industries.

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

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 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.