

23.11.2023

METPACK 2026 with optimized duration and adjusted opening hours

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Messe Essen is setting the course for a successful METPACK 2026. Only a few months after the 2023 edition, the organizer and the METPACK Committee have agreed to adjust the trade fair period to four days – and thus make the event more efficient and attractive. This means that the international metal packaging industry will next meet from 5 to 8 May 2026 in Halls 1, 2 and 3 of Messe Essen to discuss innovations and trends. From Tuesday to Thursday, METPACK will now open one hour longer from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Friday, the last day of the trade fair, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During the 2023 edition, the world's leading trade fair for the production and processing of metal packaging was still held for five days – and thus into Saturday. "This model of also holding the event on Saturday has proven to be outdated," explains Oliver P. Kuhrt, CEO of Messe Essen. "Exhibitor and visitor surveys have shown that many of our guests are already leaving on the Friday of the trade fair. An extended version of the event into the weekend is therefore obsolete," Kuhrt is convinced.

Opening hours extended on other trade fair days

There will also be no loss of quality because the opening hours on the other days of the fair have been adjusted. Instead of opening until 5 p.m. as usual, Messe Essen will now open its halls at METPACK until 6 p.m. from Monday to Thursday. "We are responding to the industry's desire for greater harmonization and more efficiency and are certain that the path we have taken will lead us to a successful event in 2026," says Christina Kleinpaß, Project Manager of METPACK, looking forward to the next edition of the trade fair.

Long-standing exhibitor BIBRA Biagosch and Brandau Germany GmbH shares this assessment. Stanislav Antonius, Deputy Managing Director: "The last METPACK was an all-round success for BIBRA. With the new duration, we are now even more convinced by the trade fair. The industry now has a platform that matches its pace and business. Participation in METPACK 2026 is therefore a clear choice for us."

Henkel from Düsseldorf is also in favor of the new date for METPACK. "METPACK is indispensable for the Henkel Adhesive Technologies team as an industry meeting place. We are therefore all the more pleased that the changed opening hours of the trade fair will make it even easier to enter into dialogue with interested parties," says Tobias Laxa, Head of Marketing at Henkel in Düsseldorf.

The registration documents for the next METPACK 2026 are now available on the website www.metpack.de.

06.05.2023

Final Report: METPACK 2023 convinced as an impulse-giving platform for the global metal packaging industry

Decarbonization and digitalization were defining topics

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International, innovative and sustainable – the METPACK slogan describes the past five days of the trade fair one hundred percent. Around 6,500 trade visitors from all parts of the world came to Messe Essen/Germany from May 2nd to May 6th 2023 and experienced forward-looking technology, new products and further developments for the production, refinement and recycling of metal packaging. One thing became particularly clear: the industry is intensifying its efforts to position itself even more sustainably. Decarbonization, resource efficiency and digitalization were the defining topics in all areas of the value chain - from steel production to printing.

"METPACK is back - and more successful than six years ago before the pandemic. We are delighted to receive so much positive feedback. The industry has been waiting to finally meet again. The atmosphere was excellent," summarizes Oliver P. Kuhrt, CEO of Messe Essen.

The world's leading trade fair for metal packaging recorded 313 exhibitors at its tenth edition - a slight increase. METPACK received a particularly large number of visitors from abroad. They accounted for a share of 73 percent. Italy, the USA and the UK led the national rankings. The quality of the visitors was also top-class: 88 percent of the trade show visitors had purchasing and procurement expertise. The exhibitors were already able to close successful deals during the trade show: One quarter of their customers placed orders directly. Post-show business also promises to be positive. 72 percent of those surveyed said they intended to place follow-up orders on the basis of the information they had received at METPACK.

Trends and technology at first hand

"The industry's big goal is to use as few resources as possible, cut costs and improve quality at the same time. This can be achieved through new technologies and processes. At METPACK, the trade audience had every opportunity to catch up on the latest developments and experience innovations up close. The willingness to invest is high," METPACK Committee Chairman Wolfgang Niemsch sums up.

For 92 percent of the exhibiting companies, the expectations of METPACK 2023 were met. All in all, 82 percent of the visitors rated the range of products and services as very positive. In Halls 1, 2 and 3, they saw mechanical engineering at the highest level and in action. The elaborately designed booths invited visitors to exchange ideas and network.

Process automation and networked production, for example through data analysis and the Internet of Things, were among the trends at METPACK 2023, as were digital printing processes that permit numerous new design options. Detailed insights into technical innovations were also provided by the well-attended international METPACK Conference with around 70 participants.

The new EU packaging regulation currently under discussion, which is intended to control the use and recycling of packaging in Europe in a sustainable manner in the future, is giving the industry further impetus, as metal packaging is considered a sustainable solution per se due to its recyclability.

Awards for the best innovations

Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint received the METPACK Innovation Award in Gold. The system provider for printing and coating lines, drying systems and exhaust air purification solutions was able to convince with a new closed-loop color control system. "MetalControl" scans each sheet and measures the ink density. The results are transmitted digitally to the control panel, evaluated and the ink zones automatically corrected. Manual adjustments are no longer necessary. Complaints, test prints and makeready times are reduced.

Ralf Hipp, CEO, Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint GmbH: "METPACK for us is a family gathering –After six years, we were very much looking forward to finally meeting our partners and customers from all over the world again face-to-face. At METPACK we were presenting our innovative Koenig & Bauer strength and our customized services. It was worth it: With our 100 percent closed-loop colour control system we won the golden METPACK Innovation Award. For us this is an outstanding honour, which shows us that we still are on the right way. Besides, we showed our MetalStar 4 and flying sheets at the new Venturi sheet guiding system for coating lines. After five intensive days with very good conversations and contacts, we are looking forward to METPACK 2026."

Actega received silver for the innovation "ROTARflow." Bronze went to Can Man for the development "PowerCUT SuperFLEX."

Next METPACK

In May 2026, the next edition of the world's leading trade fair for metal packaging will take place at Messe Essen. The conditions are already right: 93 percent of the visitors surveyed plan to visit METPACK again; 94 percent recommend a visit. Of the exhibitors, 95 percent want to take part in the next trade fair.

03.05.2023

Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint wins METPACK Innovation Award 2023 in Gold

Silver for Actega and bronze for Can Man

Silver for Actega and bronze for Can Man

The winners of the METPACK Innovation Awards have been announced: Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint receives the popular industry award of the world's leading trade fair for metal packaging in gold for the innovation "MetalControl". Other awards go to Actega and Can Man. The METPACK Innovation Award recognizes outstanding new and further developments in the metal packaging industry every three years. A total of 19 exhibitors submitted 31 entries.

Based on several criteria, the independent international jury of experts determined the winners of this year's METPACK Innovation Award. Innovation content, cost savings, as well as quality improvement and sustainability were the decisive factors for the assessment with the help of a points system. The contenders delivered a close neck-and-neck race.

"MetalControl" is the best innovation

In the end, Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint GmbH led the field. The Würzburg/Germany-based world market leader in the field of printing and coating lines, drying systems and exhaust air purification solutions won with a new closed-loop color control system. "MetalControl" scans each sheet and measures the ink density. The results are transmitted digitally to the control panel, evaluated and the ink zones automatically corrected. The award-winning innovation from Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint is a one hundred percent closed-loop color control system within the press that guarantees maximum color stability and consistency, independent of the operator. Manual adjustments are no longer necessary. Complaints, test prints and makeready times are reduced.

"ROTARflow" in second place

Wesel/Germany-based Actega GmbH has launched a new digital solution that monitors the amount of sealant applied to lids by rotating liners and makes immediate adjustments as a result. "ROTARflow" detects any deviation from the target value of the dry film weight and automatically changes pressure and needle lift accordingly. Downtimes and manual interventions are eliminated. Production data is also available from any digital device. "ROTARflow" reduces cost, material and time input while increasing quality.

"PowerCUT SuperFLEX" awarded bronze

With the PowerCUT SuperFLEX duplex cutting machine from the Swiss company Can Man, fully automatic format changes are possible in a world record time of 15 minutes. In addition to the enormous time savings, the innovation has another advantage: damage to cutting tools is avoided by eliminating manual operation.

The machine also offers maximum flexibility for cutting all formats with a high cutting accuracy.

The 2023 jury

The certificates and trophies were presented to the representatives of the winning companies at a ceremony on the second day of METPACK, May 3. The jury was chaired by Gernot Geldner. Other members of the commission were Hugo S. Trappmann, Blechwarenfabrik Limburg GmbH; Paul McClure, Gilpin; Gianluca Ciccolini, Gruppo ASA; Axel Schulte, Envases; Hein van Jaarsveld, Trivium Packaging; and Alex Fordham, The Metal Packager.