



Deutsche Messe

History of Deutsche Messe AG

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the military government in the British-U.S. bi-zone argued that exports rather than resignation offered a way out of economic devastation. Despite dire conditions, the country should mobilize resources and start exporting quality goods. Once back on its feet, the country could pay war reparations and ease the burden on Britain and the USA. As a result of a British initiative it was decided to organize the first Export Fair, and in hindsight it was a blessing that the British overruled the initial objections and skepticism of the Germans. The proposed location – Düsseldorf – had rejected the idea.

1947

The first Export Fair – initiated by the British occupying forces

As a result Deutsche Messe- und Ausstellungs-AG was set up in Hannover, and millions worth of investment were pumped into the war-damaged city. The starting capital for the trade fair company alone was 1.2 million Reich marks. The organizers were able to report that the first Export Fair was a great success. Between 18 August and 7 September 1947, a total of 1934 export orders valued at 31.6 million U.S. dollars were taken at the exhibition grounds.

1949

The first partition

Just two years after the launch the participating companies were complaining about insufficient capacity at the exhibition venue and that exhibitors had to be sent away. Consequently, the event was split into two: after the General Export Fair in April 1949, manufacturers of engineering products gathered a few weeks later at their own separate event under the title German Industrial Fair. The number of exhibitors rose rapidly.

1950

Foreign exhibitors at the Export Fair

Despite Germany's continued political isolation, the Export Fair had already gained international attention and by 1950 was attracting exhibitors from 10 different countries, including the USA. Before the new diplomatic service of the young Federal Government had an opportunity to forge international connections, representatives of the Export Fair had already established foreign contacts. As early as 1948, the Hannover exhibition venue boasted the first telephone hotline to New York. In the years that followed, German industry was enjoying the benefits of an economic boom – the wonder years of the post-war German economy had a very positive impact on the fair in Hannover.

1952

Hannover-Langenhagen Airport links the Export Fair with the rest of the world

Air travel to and from the Export Fair began at an early stage: in 1949 via the British military airbase in Bückeburg, and in 1950 via the Royal Air Force base in Wunstorf. The opening of Hannover-Langenhagen Airport in 1952 was a major step forward. The new airport was created in record time on the site of a former military airfield. Badly damaged during the Second World War, Hannover's existing airport in Vahrenwald had fallen into disuse and offered no scope for expansion. Guests arriving at the new airport could transfer directly to the Export Fair by helicopter – an exciting new development in the early 1950's.

1954

Size counts – the era of multi-sector trade fairs dawns

Echoing the remarkable boom of the department store chains, universal trade fairs boomed during the economic upswing of the 1950's. The organizers and exhibitors hoped that Hannover's trade fair landscape would reflect the growth of the entire industrial sector in Germany and the country's economic miracle. Only a few years previously the argument weighed heavily in favor of dividing the event. Now it was argued that size – and by definition scope and diversity – was crucial to its success. Hence, in 1954 the decision to split the trade fair was reversed.

1961

Specialist fair for the office equipment industry the forerunner of CeBIT

The late 1950's saw the office equipment and technology sector assuming greater importance within the portfolio of the German Industrial Fair. The trade fair also gained significance at an international level, and from 1961 onwards it was the world's biggest gathering of manufacturers, suppliers and dealers in this sector. However, nobody could imagine the extent to which this event would eventually develop – progressing from a modest array of bulky calculators and communication devices to something quite spectacular. It was in 1961 that the Industrial Fair became known as HANNOVER MESSE. (Only many years later was the German brand name HANNOVER MESSE introduced for universal use in all languages.)

1970

New name, new hall

In the light of the dramatic growth of the trade fair for office equipment and technology – at this stage still a part of HANNOVER MESSE – it was decided to erect a building devoted solely to this sector. Located in the new Hall 1, the Center for Office and Information Technology (CeBIT) boasted an exhibition area of 70,300 square meters – approximately equivalent to 10 football pitches – and impressed by virtue of both size and functionality. In 1984 it even entered the Guinness Book of Records as the world's biggest exhibition hall. Parking facilities were created under the hall, while on the roof of the building there was space for 750 system-built houses, which were rented out during the trade fairs.

1973

The oil crisis and its consequences

The decision by the OPEC countries to reduce oil production revealed the West's overdependence on fossil fuels. The resultant Sunday driving bans are deeply engraved in the collective memory of the Federal Republic. The sharp rise in oil prices exacerbated the economic slowdown in the early 1970's. This had a direct impact on HANNOVER MESSE. Two halls remained empty in 1975, and

four in 1978. Unfortunately, these halls were not suitable for the presentation of office and information technology. The oil crisis foreshadowed a process of industrial transformation – a process from which HANNOVER MESSE emerged unscathed. Visitor attendance and rented exhibition space remained at levels which were unattainable for competing trade fairs.

1975

LIGNA becomes independent

LIGNA is one of many specialist trade fairs to have originated from HANNOVER MESSE. By the mid-1970's manufacturers of woodworking machinery and equipment for the forestry industry, who already accounted for a large part of the exhibition area, were clamoring for more space. In view of the sector's continued expansion, it was decided that a separate event was needed. Now independent, the new event continued from one success to the next. LIGNA is to this day the leading trade fair for the woodworking and timber processing industries.

1978

Shift away from consumer goods

The difficult economic climate in the 1970's manifested itself in the rise and fall of the consumer goods fair "Interfach". Launched in 1974, this event attracted 900 exhibitors. However, visitor attendance dropped sharply the following year, leading to a decline in exhibitor numbers in 1976. The relevant business sectors then became part of HANNOVER MESSE once again. In 1978 consumer goods were finally eliminated from the HANNOVER MESSE portfolio.

The Fair of Fairs

1980

First Partner Country presentation at HANNOVER MESSE

As its reputation grew the focus of HANNOVER MESSE shifted more to facilitating global business leads and creating a platform for its foreign guests. It was decided to invite one individual country every year to showcase its products in the context of its history, culture and geography. The first designated Partner Country was Brazil in 1980. Since then a Partner Country has been selected every year, including close neighbors such as France, other European neighbors and countries from other continents such as China and Korea – all of them keen not simply to boost business but also to present the nation, its culture and technology to the world.

In the 1970's HANNOVER MESSE still encompassed 29 industrial fields and areas, but during this decade the individual fairs were to be streamlined and reduced to just 10 keynote themes. Taking place under the bold slogan "The Fair of Fairs", the event brought together 10 trade fairs, all held at the same time and place, five of which proved to be the biggest trade events for their respective industries or sectors worldwide. The biggest success story was the trade fair for electronics technology, followed by the Center for Office and Information Technology (CeBIT).

1981

Consumer fair Infa taken over by Deutsche Messe

The origins of the consumer goods fair Infa actually go back to the 1950's. At that time, housewives raised demands for an exhibition that catered for mothers and homemakers. As a result the exhibition company Heinrich Heckmann organized the first trade fair for household products and domestic appliances. Nearly thirty years later Deutsche Messe took over Heckmann and at the same time the company's former home fair, which by now had assumed the name of Infa – Information

Fair for Families. In its current form the trade fair attracts around 220,000 visitors and 1,300 exhibitors and is one of the biggest of its kind in Germany.

1982

A woman takes the helm

In 1982 Birgit Breuel, the Minister of Economic Affairs for the state of Lower Saxony, became the first female chairperson of the Supervisory Board of Deutsche Messe- und Ausstellungs AG. In 1986 she was appointed Lower Saxony's Minister of Finance. In 1990 she transferred to the Executive Board of Treuhandanstalt, the agency responsible for privatizing East Germany's state-owned enterprises. She was President of this organization from 1991 to 1995. Following this, Birgit Breul returned to Hannover in the role of Commissioner General of the World Exposition EXPO 2000. This event proved to be an enormous boost for the City of Hannover and its trade fair industry.

1984

A record-breaking year

At the beginning of the 1980's the economic climate improved perceptibly. This had a positive impact on HANNOVER MESSE and resulted in eight entries in the 1984 edition of the Guinness Book of Records: for the largest number of trade fair visitors (740,000), the world's biggest trade fair site (969,500 sq. m.), the largest amount of exhibition space (741,000 sq. m.), and the world's most expansive exhibition hall (Hall 1 – the original home of CeBIT). HANNOVER MESSE also boasted the largest parking facilities, the largest number of exhibitors, the largest number of exhibiting nations and – with a total of 10 tracks – the largest railroad facilities at any trade fair venue. All these statistics pointed to a need to divide up the event. 1986 saw the launch of CeBIT as a standalone trade fair.

1985

BIOTECHNICA – new platform for a new, emerging science

The 1980's witnessed the emergence of a new, exciting field of science: biotechnology. Interest in biochemistry and microbiology soon moved beyond the realms of research as science yielded important applications in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, seeds and plant stock, food and medicine. With the proportion of professional visitors reaching almost 100 percent, BIOTECHNICA has served as an unparalleled international arena for experts from universities, research institutes and companies since 1988.

Foundation of HANNOVER-MESSE INTERNATIONAL GmbH (HMI)

The foreign operations of Deutsche Messe grew at such a steady pace that they eventually culminated in the establishment of an independent company. What initially started out in 1981 as an operational division of the parent company became an independent company in 1985. The business aim of HANNOVER-MESSE INTERNATIONAL GmbH (HMI) is to establish successful versions of the individual trade events of HANNOVER MESSE at trade fair venues outside Germany.

1986

CeBIT becomes autonomous – Office Technology separated from Industry

In the early 1980s the fortunes of HANNOVER MESSE soared. In fact, the flood of visitors almost brought the infrastructure of the city and the exhibition grounds to breaking point. When the flow of visitors peaked at 80,000 trade visitors on an individual day, the organizers even ran out of admission tickets. In November 1984 it was therefore decided once again to split the trade fair. As of 1986 the office technology sector was to have its own event, held under the name Center for Office Automation, Information Technology and Telecommunications (CeBIT). Both the parent event HANNOVER FAIR (Industry) and the spin-off CeBIT are market leaders in their own right worldwide.

1987

New company name

In 1987 the company's name – Deutsche Messe-und Ausstellungs-AG – was shortened to Deutsche Messe AG, a name that is easier to remember.

1988

Hannover Exhibition Center as the launch pad for the European Monetary Union

In June 1988 the heads of government of the EC member countries met at the Hannover Exhibition Center, when German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (CDU) hosted the European Council summit. This meeting outlined the road map for the Single Market of the European Community (EC) as from 1992 and for what was later to become the Monetary Union. Hannover has seen many summit meetings, but nothing as momentous and of such historical import.

1989

Hannover exhibition venue now a hub between East and West

When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, Hannover assumed greater importance as a hub between East and West. Politicians and representatives from business and industry had long recognized the role of the trade fair as a place for matchmaking and international contacts. However, as Eastern Europe markets began to open up in the early 1990's, access was afforded to new target groups and the event was now able to reach an entirely new audience. HANNOVER MESSE grew in stature during this period, as no other trade fair venue could facilitate business contacts between East and West as effectively.

1989

DOMOTEX – carpet design from all over the world

From the very outset DOMOTEX was the leading international event for carpets and floor coverings. The debut event in 1989 attracted 531 manufacturers and carpet-makers from across the globe to Hannover, where they showcased a dazzling display of knotted and woven carpets. The trade fair has kept this strong international profile – four out of five exhibitors come from outside the host nation. Nearly three quarters of the visitors occupy positions in management. Not surprisingly, this event now attracts approx. 1,400 exhibitors.

1992

HANNOVER chosen as the venue for two leading international events

In 1992 Deutsche Messe announced that it would be hosting two top events in Hannover at two-year intervals in each case: the IAA Commercial Vehicles (IAA Nutzfahrzeuge) and EuroBLECH.

1996

The first online trade fair

Just seven years after the launch of the world wide web (1989 in Geneva/Switzerland) Deutsche Messe embraced the new technology and introduced GLOBIS, the first virtual trade fair venue. This system allows visitors to view product information round the clock and marked a revolution in trade fair services. It should be remembered that this was at a time when sending an e-mail cost 10 pfennigs and Telekom in Germany charged by the minute for going online. It was also at this time that the Internet gained in importance as a serious topic at CeBIT.

World Exposition EXPO 2000

World Exposition EXPO 2000

The preparations for the World Exposition EXPO 2000 involved massive investment in the exhibition grounds during the 1990's. Over DM 1.6 billion went into developing the site and the transport infrastructure to ensure that the location could cope with the huge number of visitors expected. This project placed Deutsche Messe clearly at the head of the international market. At the time Hannover could boast the biggest and most modern exhibition grounds in the world. The ground-breaking architecture of the exhibition halls set new international standards and gained international acclaim.

Boom years for CeBIT

CeBIT goes from strength to strength. At the peak of the Internet boom numerous IT startups flocked to CeBIT and onto the world's stock exchanges. In 2000 more than 7,800 exhibitors and 750,000 visitors came to Hannover. In 2002 CeBIT set an all-time visitor attendance record of 860,000. As from 2001, CeBIT spin-off events were staged in other regions around the world.

2001

CeBIT set up in Turkey and China

The first spin-off events of the flagship fair CeBIT were now launched in other regions of the world. The attraction of the Asian economic boom was particularly strong. Not surprisingly, the first major international venture led to CeBIT Asia in Shanghai. This was followed by CeBIT eurasia in Istanbul. At the same time Deutsche Messe, in cooperation with German trade fair companies in Düsseldorf and Munich, opened the Shanghai New International Expo Center (SNIEC), a facility with a hall area of 45,000 square meters which within the space of a few years was being heralded as China's leading exhibition venue.

2004

Deutsche Messe in the age of globalization

Deutsche Messe responded to the challenges of globalization by developing a portfolio of 27 foreign trade fairs. It was a period marked by three major trends: Germany was the world leader in exports, and both the EU and the NATO were expanding as allegiances in Eastern Europe shifted. CeBIT, HANNOVER MESSE, BIOTECHNICA and DOMOTEX remained the flagship events of Deutsche Messe and were capturing an increasingly big market share in China, South East Asia, Australia, India, Brazil, Turkey and the USA.

2008

Joint Venture with Fiera Milano

Intent on consolidating its strategic orientation to foreign markets, Deutsche Messe now entered a joint venture with Fiera Milano, Europe's second leading trade fair organizer. The two companies hoped to gain a foothold in the growth markets of Russia, China and India, and expected to see their market position improve through their joint efforts and shared know-how.

Quality not quantity – CeBIT changes course

The world's leading trade fair for the digital industry now pressed the reset button and launched a new program. Lectures and specialist events added a new quality to the trade fair and accounted for a further increase in the proportion of professional visitors. CeBIT was shortened from seven to six days. Environmental issues featured for the first time on the trade fair agenda as the keynote theme "Green IT". The introduction of new content proved to be a good move. Over six days more than 10 million business talks were held, countless investment decisions initiated and orders concluded.

Best business results in company history

With 106 different events attracting over 39,000 exhibitors and a total of 3.22 million visitors for the year, Deutsche Messe is up among the world leaders as an organizer of leading international trade fairs.

2009

Go-ahead for expansion of SNIEC

In spite of the world economic crisis, activities geared to further developing the Shanghai New International Expo Center (SNIEC) in China went ahead. After completion of the building work at the end of 2010 the venue would offer a display area of 200,000 square meters – plus a 130,000 square meter open-air site. Since the facility first opened in 2001 it has emerged as China's most important trade show and exhibition venue.

Chinese subsidiary celebrates its first 10 years

Founded by Deutsche Messe in 1999, Hannover Fairs Shanghai Ltd., which now operated under the name Hannover Milano Fairs Shanghai Ltd., could now look back on 10 successful years. During this period it made a significant impact on the Chinese exhibition and trade fair market, and now staged up to 15 shows each year in China's major centers of business and industry concentrated around Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou.

Deutsche Messe steps up commitment to Japan

In 2009 Deutsche Messe stepped up its involvement in the Japanese market with the establishment of a new local subsidiary. Deutsche Messe Japan K.K. began by intensifying efforts to recruit exhibitors and visitors for the various trade fairs staged in Hannover and developing a network of contacts with major Japanese companies.

Deutsche Messe Interactive (DMI) is launched

The new subsidiary Deutsche Messe Interactive began offering innovative solutions in the field of digital lead generation.

California's Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger attends CeBIT

Together with Chancellor Angela Merkel, Arnold Schwarzenegger (Governor of California) officially opened CeBIT in Hannover.

2010

Foreign business expansion and restructuring

Deutsche Messe added 13 new foreign trade fairs to its portfolio of trade fairs outside of Germany. These included the first HANNOVER MESSE franchises in Moscow, organized by Deutsche Messe in collaboration with a local partner. The events on foreign markets proved highly successful, and in order to strengthen the company's position in the competitive international market the different areas of responsibility were more clearly demarcated: henceforth the subsidiary Hannover Messe International (HMI) – which in future would operate under the name Hannover Fairs International GmbH – was made responsible for all international exhibitions and trade fairs staged outside Germany. This reorganization gave fresh impetus to Deutsche Messe's growth strategy.

HANNOVER MESSE and the Icelandic volcano

The eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull on 20 March 2010 had a serious impact on HANNOVER MESSE the following April. Due to the spread of volcanic ash, air traffic was suspended in large parts of northern and central Europe. This prevented many exhibitors and visitors from attending HANNOVER MESSE. Deutsche Messe instantly launched a comprehensive array of remedial measures. Hundreds of exhibitors were transported to Hannover by bus from all over Europe. A group of 150 Turkish exhibitors even took it upon themselves to endure a 50-hour bus ride in order to be at the show. One New Zealand exhibitor needed no fewer than 134 hours to reach Hannover.

Convention Center wins "Location Award"

The best venue for exciting major events: experienced event organizers chose the Convention Center as the winner of the 2010 Location Award. The jury was particularly impressed by the flexibility and scope of the venue, the quality of service, the facilities and their communications infrastructure.

Extensive event portfolio scores outstanding results

With over 50 events during the year – ranging from a medical congress to open-air concerts and sporting events – the Hannover Exhibition Center attracted a steady stream of visitors. In fact Deutsche Messe recorded 2010 as its most successful year for congresses, conventions, events and

special functions. One particular highlight was the concert by AC/DC, attended by 80,000 fans who danced the night away around the Hermes Tower and under the Expo Canopy.

2011

Deutsche Messe goes east; southern part of the Hannover venue revamped

The expansion of international business generated strong growth. In 2011 Deutsche Messe staged 108 events in Germany and other countries – more than ever before. The company's employees were distributed across more than 100 countries, organized in five German and eight foreign subsidiaries.

The list of foreign subsidiaries included Deutsche Messe RUS (established in 2011), which spearheaded business expansion in Eastern Europe in the following years.

Hannover was a hive of activity. Hall 10 at the southern end of the exhibition grounds was demolished. Completed in 1958, this multi-story building served as a landmark for visitors arriving at the site. It was used primarily during HANNOVER MESSE in its earlier years, above all for the presentation of lamps and light fittings.

Hall 10 made its last major appearance at EXPO 2000, where the Dutch artist Lily van der Stokker decorated the facades with pink ornaments. The hall was superseded by a new entrance zone equipped with a state-of-the-art visitor entry system.

Since 2011 the southern entrance has boasted the new 35-meter high Hermes Column. Fifteen large dichroic glass panels shimmer blue and yellow depending on the wavelength and the angle of incidence of the ambient light. Transparent solar modules generate the necessary power. At night more than 1,300 LEDs illuminate the stylized Hermes emblem.

Deutsche Messe acquires a stake in event it AG

This move was designed to strengthen the position of Deutsche Messe in the conference business segment. With its portfolio of organizational, planning and on-site support services, this new subsidiary is the perfect complement to Deutsche Messe – above all with regard to electronic visitor management. In 2014 *event it* launched a new web portal and mobile app. This software platform assists exhibitors with their lead management, evaluates business cards and streamlines follow-up activities.

2012

A watershed year – foreign business a driving force behind revenue growth

Deutsche Messe continued to perform well. 2012 proved to be a watershed year – due largely to the growth program initiated in 2009, aimed at unlocking new sources of revenue and profit.

The exceptionally dynamic growth in foreign business made a positive impact on profits. China and Turkey were two major sources of revenue growth. In Turkey, Deutsche Messe acquired the remaining shares in Hannover-Messe Sodeks Fuarcilik A.S., which organizes the heating, ventilation and air conditioning fair ISK-SODEX in Istanbul. This was followed by the purchase of the remaining stake in CeBIT Bilişim Eurasia. In both cases Deutsche Messe succeeded in strengthening its market position.

Trade fair business in Hannover also continued to expand. Formerly a special display at HANNOVER MESSE, Metropolitan Solutions soon became a standalone event taking place in parallel with the world's largest industrial technology show. Metropolitan Solutions focuses on solutions for tomorrow's megacities.

Public transport strike – the Red Dot is reactivated

Due to a public transport strike during CeBIT, Deutsche Messe decided to revive the “Red Dot Campaign” of days gone by and asked Hannover's residents to once again help transport exhibitors to and from the exhibition grounds. Numerous motorists displayed a red dot behind their car windscreens to indicate that they were willing to pick up passengers.

Deutsche Messe acquires a majority stake in spring Messe Management GmbH

Spring Messe Management organizes specialist trade fairs in the field of human resources (HR) management, professional learning, corporate health, job and careers and the public sector. Together with this new subsidiary, Deutsche Messe now ranks as Europe's largest organizer of HR fairs.

2013

Highest revenues in the past 10 years

The company's growth strategy is paying dividends: in 2013 Deutsche Messe reported the highest sales revenues and profits since 2003. The company organized a record number of fairs in foreign markets and achieved the highest foreign sales revenues in its history. In addition, Deutsche Messe had the highest volume of orders on its books since its inception.

This mirrored the corporate strategy of Deutsche Messe, which was aimed at maximizing profitability and growth. As a result the company was able to fund the investment in the new Hall 19/20 from its own resources.

The recipe for success and growth was apparent: to identify and implement new ideas at the earliest possible stage.

Internet of Things and Industry 4.0 at home in Hannover

Deutsche Messe was the first trade fair company to respond to the two new mega trends Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things by putting the spotlight on digitalization, at both HANNOVER MESSE and CeBIT. Under the programmatic heading “Integrated Industry” HANNOVER MESSE now focused on tomorrow's smart factories.

2014

Digital economy – digital trade fairs

Thanks to the ongoing enhancement of established trade fair concepts, Deutsche Messe succeeded in transforming HANNOVER MESSE, CeBIT, CeMAT and LIGNA into driving forces behind the digital revolution – a precondition for sustained and profitable corporate growth.

Digital technology was also transforming the trade fair industry. In 2014 the web pages of Deutsche Messe and its trade fairs attracted seven million visitors. This positive echo is

attributable to the company's strong branding and high-profile presence in search engines, social networks and industry portals.

Deutsche Messe is committed to maintaining and enhancing its digital portfolio. The development and application of digital services is now the joint responsibility of two specialist subsidiaries. Established in 2009, Deutsche Messe Interactive (DMI) provides digital lead generation services for exhibitors. In addition, DMI compiles the electronic exhibitor and product directories for trade fairs such as HANNOVER MESSE, CeBIT, LIGNA, DOMOTEX and BIOTECHNICA.

The subsidiary *event it* specializes in electronic visitor management. In 2014 *event it* launched a new web portal and mobile app. This software platform assists exhibitors with their lead management, evaluates business cards and streamlines follow-up activities.

Deutsche Messe in Indonesia

Deutsche Messe has gained a foothold in this new market in its role as the operator of Indonesia Convention Exhibition (ICE) in Jakarta. With 247 million inhabitants Indonesia is South East Asia's largest economy and, together with the BRIC countries, is one of the world's major growth markets.

2015

Building for the future – a modular concept for the exhibition grounds

A major step in the modernization program for the exhibition grounds (commenced in 2012) was the completion of Hall 19/20 in the spring of 2015 – after a construction period of only 18 months.

Hall 19/20 was officially inaugurated at the beginning of July by the Chairman of the Supervisory Board (Lower Saxony's Minister of Economic Affairs Olaf Lies), the Mayor of Hannover (Stefan Schostok) and other members of the Supervisory Board and the Managing Board. The hall was designed by the leading firm of architects gmp – Gerkan, Marg and Partners, which had already been responsible for other construction projects at the Hannover exhibition grounds.

Hall 19/20 is part of an extensive site development plan which the Managing Board of Deutsche Messe submitted to the Supervisory Board in 2012. The goal is to enhance the modernity, functionality and flexibility of the exhibition grounds in order to maintain long-term competitiveness. The aim is to create and refurbish around 100,000 square meters of indoor exhibition space by the year 2032. An average of €20 million per year has been earmarked for this purpose.

With the renewal of the exhibition grounds Deutsche Messe is responding to the changing requirements of the marketplace. The number of international flagship fairs remains stable, while on the other hand small and medium-sized fairs, conferences and corporate events offer significant growth potential. In 2014 the Hannover Exhibition Center hosted more than 50 major events, including the Annual General meetings of Volkswagen and MAN.

Hall 19/20 (which cost less than the originally planned €54 million) boasts a modular design. Numerous events can be hosted simultaneously. For daytime light shows and other requirements,

the entire exhibition area can be darkened. The hall features modern conference facilities, a restaurant and a bistro with an open kitchen (ideal for live cooking demonstrations).

The next major project is a new structure linking Hall 7 and the Convention Center at the heart of the exhibition grounds.

Glenn Greenwald and Edward Snowden at CeBIT Global Conferences

This was one of the highlights at the 2015 CeBIT Global Conferences. The journalist and “gatekeeper” Glenn Greenwald (in the words of CGC moderator Brent Goff) appeared live on stage in Hannover, while the whistleblower Edward Snowden spoke via satellite from Moscow. 40,000 viewers worldwide watched the live stream.

Metropolitan Solutions moves to Berlin

In 2015 Deutsche Messe staged the international smart city/green city conference Metropolitan Solutions for the first time in the City Cube in Berlin. The aim is to facilitate direct contacts between urban technology providers and decision-makers in the public sector and the political community. Metropolitan Solutions is an integral part of Berlin’s smart city strategy, which has attracted worldwide attention.

2016

USA as Partner Country at HANNOVER MESSE, with President Obama in attendance

Deutsche Messe’s biggest highlight of 2016 was in April, when President Barack Obama officially opened HANNOVER MESSE together with Chancellor Angela Merkel. The United States of America was the Partner Country of the world’s most foremost trade fair for industrial technology. Never before had Deutsche Messe hosted such a high-ranking guest at one of its events. The media echo was enormous, and the global renown enjoyed by HANNOVER MESSE and Deutsche Messe went up a notch. Despite stringent security measures on site and throughout the city of Hannover, the U.S. President’s visit met with huge enthusiasm and triggered a palpably upbeat spirit. In the end, everyone was thrilled: the 500 American exhibitors and the many other enterprises with business agendas in North America. The USA is committed to revitalizing its industrial base, and the country’s factories need to be set up to handle the challenges of the 4th industrial revolution. HANNOVER MESSE is the ideal place to seek and find the necessary technology.

2017

Deutsche Messe celebrates its 70th anniversary

2017 marks the 70th anniversary of Deutsche Messe AG. Over the past seven decades, the company has brought together millions of people at events around the globe, thus paving the way for international business. Thanks to its focus on capital goods shows, consumer goods exhibitions and human resources fairs and a globalization and digitalization strategies, Deutsche Messe enjoys international acclaim. Its service-driven approach is highly valued by exhibitors and visitors alike. The company’s anniversary motto – “70 years of showcasing the future” – emphasizes what has been its guiding principle since its inception on 18 August 1947: proactively shaping tomorrow’s world.

The Turkish constitutional referendum and presidential elections

This has never happened before: Hall 2 on our exhibition grounds will become a polling station for Turks living in northern Germany, who will have a two-week-opportunity in spring this year to vote for or against the presidential system sought by head of state Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey. The Turkish presidential and parliamentary elections will follow in the summer that same year. And once again, the exhibition center with Hall 21 will be one of two polling stations in northern Germany.

Summer - heavy rain - Guns n' Roses

72,000 fans attend the summer-open-air concert of Guns n' Roses at the exhibition grounds. One would think that the band itself rocks the stage enough to completely thrill all the fans. On this evening, however, they get competition from Mother Nature. In the middle of the concert, threatening dark clouds come up, which within a very short time develop into a thunderstorm with heavy rain and even drown out the booming bass of the band. But that's not all: the rain is so heavy that the open-air area has to be evacuated for a short time and all fans have to be brought to safety in a neighboring hall. However, this does not dampen the mood - as quickly as the thunderstorm arrives, it disappears again and the concert continues.

Guest trade shows and events ensure a full trade show calendar

The year 2017 is in itself an unbelievably rich in trade fairs and events for Deutsche Messe, if one looks only at the company's own events. But there are also two major heavyweights among the guest events that will delight exhibitors and visitors at the exhibition center: EMO and AGRITECHNICA. In addition, a total of 40 guest events, such as Tire Technology Expo, the premiere of MCM ComiCon, IdeenExpo, TrauDich! as a wedding trade show and BioNord, will be added to the trade show calendar.

Record revenue in times of change - annual result for 2017 reaches all-time high

Deutsche Messe has had an extremely successful financial year. With 356.4 million euros, the group not only exceeded its own revenue target, but also reached an all-time high. Deutsche Messe's annual result of almost 19 million euros is also well above target. It is the third-best result since 2001. For Deutsche Messe, these are currently times of intense change. Analogous to the main target group of industry, the company's core business is also changing. The overriding goal is to have completed the evolution from trade show organizer to international provider of events and data services by 2021.

North American Commercial Vehicle Show in Atlanta

The premiere of the North American Commercial Vehicle Show in the US metropolis of Atlanta in the state of Georgia marks a record for Deutsche Messe as the largest premiere of an in-house event abroad. With 34,000 square meters occupied, it is a great success from the start for both the industry and Deutsche Messe.

2018

CEBIT's fateful year

What emerges from HANNOVER MESSE in 1986 as the Center for Office and Information Technology as an independent trade fair, experiences a veritable boom and grows steadily over the years, takes a turn with the bursting of the dotcom bubble. From then on, CEBIT finds itself in difficult waters between the most important IT industry event and continuous market change, and will be staged for the last time in 2018 as the CEBIT Business Festival for Innovation and Digitization.

Eminem - a controversial rapper in Hanover

When U.S. rapper Eminem comes to Hannover in the summer of 2018, 75,000 fans wait spellbound for his performance. Eminem, also known as Slim Shady, is a Grammy and Oscar winner and, according to Billboard magazine, the most successful musician of the 2000s in the United States. But: Eminem has often been subjected to strong criticism since the beginning of his career due to lyrics glorifying violence. In Hanover, however, Eminem shows his musically talented side and silences the critics.

A full schedule in the trade fair autumn in Hanover

The trade fair autumn is spurred on by the IAA Commercial Vehicles, infa, EuroBLECH, EuroTier and Pferd & Jagd in Hanover. They all ensure that CEBIT's fateful year 2018 turns into a successful business year for Deutsche Messe after all.

Growth engine abroad

Deutsche Messe is securing its stable competitive position both by expanding existing trade fairs and by opening up new themes and markets abroad. In 2018, the 47 events organized by Deutsche Messe and its worldwide subsidiaries and sales partners generated total sales of around €65 million, which is €10 million more than in the previous year. The focus is on trade fairs in Turkey, China, the USA, Canada, Australia and Mexico.

2019

Mini premiere with the Clean Transport

Spring 2019 has a mini trade fair premiere in Hanover, Clean Transport. The first, Germany's only trade fair for the professional cleaning of means of transport - buses, suburban and subway trains and passenger and freight cars of rail-based local and long-distance transport - brings exhibiting companies together with cleaning experts, decision-makers from rail supply companies and local transport operators.

Enthusiastic fans at Ed Sheeran

When Ed Sheeran takes to the open-air stage at the exhibition center in summer 2019, there's no stopping his 133,000 fans. The British shooting star has won the hearts of all fans who come to Hanover for this one and only concert in northern Germany with his first beats. The evening: a complete success!

A summer evening with horsepower

In late summer, more than 10,000 visitors* come to the exhibition grounds under the Expo roof in one evening to look at and listen to tuned vehicles - a perfect foretaste of the premiere of PS Days in 2020 as a new trade fair for the tuning and car refinement scene.

Deutsche Messe exceeds targets in the 2019 financial year

With consolidated revenue and earnings above plan, eleven newly planned events at the Hannover venue, continuously growing international business and a clear entrepreneurial transformation course, Deutsche Messe can look back on a successful 2019 financial year in which it exceeded the planned figures for both revenue and earnings. The reason for the good overall result is both the positive developments of the major trade fairs in Hanover, which all performed better than planned in terms of results, and the success of the events abroad, and there in particular in China.

New business in Germany and abroad

The Hannover portfolio has grown by eleven planned new events in 2019, including 5G CMM Expo, Clean Transport, LightCon, PS Days, TECHTIDE and TWENTY2X. Outside Germany, a total of twelve new events have been announced, including, for example, a DOMOTEX USA and an INTERSCHUTZ USA. With the premiere of Industrial Transformation Mexico in October 2019, the new trade show brand "Industrial Transformation" has also been successfully positioned in Central America.

2020

Corona paralyzes trade fair business

Still in January, DOMOTEX is THE trade fair event in Hannover as the well-known annual get-up. It is successful, as usual highly international, and inspires dealers and trade visitors alike. At the same time, however, reports of an as yet unknown virus from China are increasing by the hour: the so-called coronavirus, the global impact and long-term consequences of which no one could guess at the beginning of the still young year.

By March at the latest, when the first lockdown is imposed in Germany and worldwide, the trade show industry comes to a sudden stop overnight. Trade show cancellations around the globe are the result. In Hanover, too, no events take place from March onwards. The outlook is completely unclear. For Deutsche Messe, around 80 percent of its total revenue will be lost with immediate effect. The company is in its worst crisis since it was founded in 1947. Employees must work from home in order to reduce the risk of infection, and the company applies for short-time work.

5G, H'Up & Media Factory

Despite the Corona crisis, Deutsche Messe continues to invest and relies on the super-fast generation in mobile communications, 5G, as a business development model. The exhibition center is set up with an area-wide, public and private 5G infrastructure and thus become a "Smart Venue". The goal: The further development of the exhibition center into a "5G Smart Venue" means the qualitative expansion of the business model for the company and enables new revenue potential. The costs amount to a total of 12 million euros in the years 2020 to 2022.

In the first pandemic summer, HANNOVER MESSE will be staged as "HANNOVER MESSE Digital Days". It is thus a two-day, purely digital event and will be streamed to the world from Peppermint Studios in Hannover. Many exhibitors use this digital platform to present their products virtually to their customers during Covid and to stay in touch. Deutsche Messe is entering completely new territory with HM Digital Days. No other trade fair company is daring to take the digital streaming step with an otherwise purely physical brand. HANNOVER MESSE has benefited from this courage and pioneering spirit.

Following the HM Digital Days, Deutsche Messe and its subsidiary, event it, are developing H'Up as their own hybrid streaming location on the exhibition grounds, converting Hall 18 for this purpose. Almost at the same time, NDR is dissolving the longstanding NDR studios on the exhibition grounds at Hall 17. The Media Factory – managed by Deutsche Messe Technology Academy – takes over the NDR studios and since then has functioned purely as a streaming studio complex. With both locations, Deutsche Messe expands its own hybrid and digital expertise and offers customers across all industries the opportunity to produce corona-conform digital formats tailored to their personal needs.

Test drive-in and makeshift hospital

Before the end of spring 2020, both a corona test drive-in and a so-called makeshift hospital are built on the exhibition grounds. The Hannover Region is the client for both facilities.

infa to be model trade fair with hygiene requirements in September

As the only event besides DOMOTEX, infa will launch in fall 2020 as a model trade show during the pandemic. The region has issued detailed conditions, which include a comprehensive safety and hygiene concept. The infa team realized an outstanding trade show with wide aisles, plenty of outdoor space for fresh air and made infa as safe as it could be. Not a single corona case emanates from infa.

2021

Vaccination on a piecework basis

The exhibition center continues to be well booked by the region. With the start of the New Year, a worldwide vaccination campaign is proclaimed and a vaccination center is set up in Hannover on the exhibition grounds especially for this purpose, where all citizens from Hannover and the region can be vaccinated against the coronavirus. The Johanniter, the Malteser and the ASB vaccinate.

The restructuring and the banking plan

Parallel to the worldwide vaccination campaign against the coronavirus, Deutsche Messe is pushing ahead with the restructuring of the company demanded by its shareholders in order to be competitive after the pandemic. The title: Future Concept "Deutsche Messe 2027". A mix of a comprehensive structural and process reorganization of the company and a reduction in staff to 525 by 2027 are the conditions. In return, the shareholders of Deutsche Messe promise to provide a guarantee and thus grant a loan - based on a clearly described bank plan.

The HM Digital Edition

A week of digital HANNOVER MESSE is available in April with the #HM Digital Edition from the H'Up in Hall 18.

Trade fair re-launch in September in Hannover and abroad.

The new Corona Ordinance in Lower Saxony finally makes on-site trade fairs and events possible again. The core of Lower Saxony's Corona Ordinance for trade fairs and events is the so called "3G regulation", individual safety and hygiene concepts for all types of events, the generally applicable hygiene and safety rules and a digital registration requirement for all persons participating. Deutsche Messe is launching parts2clean in Stuttgart and TECHTIDE as a hybrid trade fair in December. Guest events are also venturing a re-launch in Hannover: the EUHA Congress, INTERGEO and Bio-Nord. Trade fairs abroad are possible again. ISK Sodex (Turkey), Industrial Transformation Mexico, WHMS China (Wuhan Motor Show), CCVS (China Commercial Vehicle Show), PTC ASIA/CeMAT ASIA/ComVac ASIA and International Fastener Show China are off to a good start and send a message of confidence to the global trade show industry.

2022

Omikron pushes all trade shows to early summer 2022

One bright spot: Deutsche Messe ends short-time work at the start of the year. All employees are back in the "normal mode", but still largely work remote. The reason: A new variant of the coronavirus spreads worldwide – Omikron – and the safety of all employees and protection against infection take priority.

What might have been a fair re-start in the fall of 2021 is already passé because of Omikron. The new, highly contagious virus variant throws trade fairs out of sync again. All spring events planned in Hannover are postponed until early summer. The Real Estate Arena in May will kick things off, followed by HANNOVER MESSE in June, then INTERSCHUTZ, also in June.