

PRESS RELEASE

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“We're on the way to becoming a gigabit society”

Industry gathering at Langmatz: 9th Broadband Symposium sees new visitor record

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, 10 March 2020 – With the sun beaming down brightly for part of the event, the 9th Broadband Symposium and Open House was held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen on 26 and 27 February – and a new visitor record was achieved. This year, 540 participants from Germany and abroad came to the Zugspitze region to learn about innovations and marketing trends in broadband expansion and discuss them in person. There were also 31 partner companies presenting their latest products for optical fibre expansion. “Even if representatives from politics, business and associations sometimes rightfully criticise the sluggish speed at which high-speed networks are being expanded, we're on the way to becoming a gigabit society”, explained Stephan Wulf, Chairman of the Langmatz Executive Board, thereby setting the tone for this year’s industry gathering during his opening speech.

Thrilling presentations and discussions

On the first day of the event, Kerstin Stromberg-Mallmann and Josef Lohr, Head of Product Introduction at Langmatz, presented a varied programme in the Garmisch-Partenkirchen Congress Hall. Talks by high-profile speakers provided interesting insights into how the exponential development of digitalisation will shape our future living environment and what digital technologies are making urban communities become smart today. This year, Langmatz had modified its technical presentation concept so that participants could delve into topics in more depth. After the lunch break, a series of presentations featuring special optical fibre topics were also held, which participants could choose to attend depending on their own personal interests, and it proved to be a great success. The afternoon events concluded with a stimulating panel discussion on the exciting question about the challenges currently being faced in terms of network expansion. The experts agreed that the expansion process could be accelerated through fewer bureaucratic obstacles as well as clearly defined quality standards and standardised specialist training.

Langmatz: growth through innovation

As part of his opening speech, Wulf pointed out that Langmatz has seen significant growth in the past ten years and has more than doubled its turnover within this same time period, from €40.9 million in 2009 to €86.6 million in 2019. He sees the key to Langmatz' success as being its constant endeavours to tackle current trends and its systematic development of innovative products and system solutions. As a result, the medium-sized industrial company currently holds more than 200 patents and was counted among Germany's innovation leaders in an exhaustive study by the F.A.Z. in 2019. "Innovation is a living part of our corporate culture," Wulf emphasised. In terms of broadband expansion, a lot will happen over the coming five years, he predicted. "Cities and municipalities are planning to expand the digital infrastructure, while numerous regional, national and local carriers are developing new business models. New applications in the smart city and 5G expansion also require high-speed data networks," Wulf stated, summarising current developments. His conclusion: there is no way around comprehensive expansion of the optical fibre infrastructure on the way to becoming a gigabit society.

Open House: presentation of new products in optical fibre expansion

The Olympic Ski Stadium in Garmisch-Partenkirchen took centre stage on the second day. 31 partner companies presented new products and solutions for setting up and operating optic fibre networks in a 900-square-meter exhibitor tent set up at the ski jump. Langmatz also showcased its current developments – from its central office to outside plant and customer premises. This included the new Medium optical fibre network distributor, the new VarioPipe optical fibre wall duct and the new mini optical distribution and termination box, which enables networks to be expanded modularly and cost-effectively. In addition, workshops on optical fibre assembly, optical fibre enclosures and their application, as well as the routing of protective conduits and pipe bundles were held on the ski jump. Just like every year, there was also the opportunity to visit the Langmatz plant in nearby Oberau by shuttle bus to take a tour of the plant and gain detailed insights into state-of-the-art methods for producing optical fibre products.



Stephan Wulf welcomed the participants of the 9th Broadband Symposium in the packed Congress Hall. (Photo: Langmatz)

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