High level of interest in INTERSCHUTZ 2015

Special highlight: group presentation with China

INTERSCHUTZ is going from strength to strength. Around 1,300 exhibitors from more than 40 countries are expected in 2015. To cope with this demand an additional exhibition hall has already been earmarked for the show. Staged every five years by Deutsche Messe AG, INTERSCHUTZ is a genuine “hotspot” for rescue, fire prevention, disaster relief, safety and security – due not least to its unique combination of commercial and non-commercial content.

“INTERSCHUTZ – this time under the patronage of Federal Interior Minister Dr. Thomas de Maizière – has become a global event for all areas of safety/security,” emphasizes Dr. Jochen Köckler, who sits on the Managing Board of Deutsche Messe AG. Dirk Aschenbrenner, President of the German Fire Protection Association (vfdb), is convinced that “INTERSCHUTZ will make a big impact and open up new perspectives.” Alongside the German Fire Brigade Federation (DFV) and the German Engineering Federation (VDMA), the vfdb is a non-commercial sponsor of INTERSCHUTZ 2015.”

A positive factor is the recently signed agreement with China concerning the modernization of the country’s ambulance ser-
INTERSchutz is now a focus for jobs and careers

INTERSchutz 2015 brings together expert personnel working in the area of firefighting, disaster relief, rescue and safety/security. A new highlight in the coming year will be “job and career at INTERSchutz” in Hall 25.

In Germany alone, more than 100 professional fire brigades are seeking to recruit suitable personnel. According to a report published in “Feuerwehr Magazin” in June 2014, the career prospects for young people in the fire and rescue services have never been better. Given the fact that INTERSchutz attracts a broad professional audience, it is the ideal place for employers to present career paths in their organizations, to outline the opportunities for personal and professional development and to carry out targeted recruitment activities.

“job and career at INTERSchutz” will focus not only on jobs but also on personal/professional development, career planning and work-life balance. According to project manager Andreas Schlicht, organizations will have the chance to focus on specific target audiences, outline career openings and present the possibilities for qualification and skills development. Most experts are agreed that conventional recruitment advertisements are no longer sufficient to attract skilled personnel. Instead, more and more individuals attend trade fairs in order to explore available training and employment opportunities.

The INTERSchutz exhibitors are invited to post job vacancies on a dedicated portal, which will go online at the latest six weeks before the show opens. This will provide the basis for establishing contact and arranging interviews in advance. In addition, all the listed vacancies will be posted during INTERSchutz on a multimedia job wall, which can be accessed via tablet computers and iPads.

www.interschutz.jobandcareer.de

Ministry assists young innovative enterprises

A strong international appeal is one of the preconditions for inclusion in the “Events” promotion program of the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). INTERSchutz 2015 is included in this program. Further information can be downloaded from www.bmwi.de/DE/Mediathek/publikationen,did=318986.html

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www.interschutz.jobandcareer.de
Spotlight on safety and security
Discussion and networking platform in Hall 12

Safety and security will feature prominently in Hall 12 at INTERSCHUTZ 2015. This hall will provide the perfect setting for project presentations and expert discussions. The CRIISE Forum likewise provides the perfect platform for direct information exchange, knowledge transfer and networking. Previously part of the vfdb Annual Meeting, this forum will now take place for the first time under the umbrella of INTERSCHUTZ.

How can we safeguard the increasingly complex vital arteries of our society against the growing range of threats? This is one of the most important questions on the agenda at the display category “Safety and Security”. The spotlight will be on the “Protection of critical infrastructure”.

The range of exhibits has been selected accordingly. The line-up comprises safety/security equipment, control room and alarm technology, monitoring systems, information and organization technology, measuring and detection systems, as well as personal protective equipment. The exhibitors include associations, organizations, public authorities and service providers.

The 2015 CRIISE Forum will centre on crisis management in relation to critical infrastructure, the challenges posed by large buildings, the vulnerability of systems, plus future perspectives in research. “CRIISE has become a must for all those working in the area of safety and security,” vfdb President Dirk Aschenbrenner confirmed after this year’s conference in Dortmund. “Service providers, the emergency services, the police, government departments, corporate safety officers, municipalities and administrative districts benefit from the wide-ranging experience and insights presented at this established event.”

Poised over the abyss
German high-altitude rescue championship at INTERSCHUTZ 2015

Just a few decades ago emergencies occurring on top of tall buildings, electricity pylons and cranes, etc. stretched the fire brigades to their limits. This problem has long been solved. Throughout Germany fire brigades and other organizations can now call on the services of high-altitude rescue specialists. During the “German High-Altitude Rescue Championship” at INTERSCHUTZ 2015 more than 100 of these helpers will give insights into their special skills.

Fifteen teams of six will be participating on four competition stages. The exact nature of the assignments will be kept secret until the actual day of the championship (13 June). The fastest team wins. Mistakes will incur additional time penalties.

High-altitude rescue is a fairly recent development in Germany. Its origins date back to the early 1980s, to the East Berlin Fire Department in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR). In 1986 the “Special Rescue Service” was instituted nationwide in the GDR. West Germany soon followed suit, when the Frankfurt Fire Brigade set up its own high-altitude rescue team.

A system of cable cars spanning the EXPO 2000 site was planned in the nineties. In response to this the city’s fire department, police force and the cable car operator formed a special high-altitude rescue group in 1999. After EXPO 2000 this group was then integrated into the Hannover fire department. Today the team comprises 40 firemen, all of whom have received additional training as paramedics, plus ten instructors.

High-altitude rescue workers have to complete 80 hours of basic instruction, plus an annual 72 hours of in-service training. Special emphasis is given to the use of ropes and safety devices. The longest rope measures 200 metres. “However, there is no upper limit. If necessary, several ropes can be joined together,” says Tobias Slabon, leader of the high-altitude rescue team and head of department at Hannover Fire Brigade.
**Urgent appeal to employers**

Wanted: a joint initiative to alleviate the growing shortage of new recruits

Germany’s fire brigades are finding it difficult to attract new volunteers. Already apparent for many years, this trend is now causing a real headache for Germany’s federal states and municipalities. The search for solutions is under way. Children’s fire brigade clubs have been founded to augment the existing youth organizations. The goal is to awaken interest and prepare youngsters for future assignments in voluntary fire brigades. To an increasing extent new residents are being approached. Although the situation is not critical in all regions, experts see a serious threat to the readiness and performance of the fire brigades. The main reason for this is demographic change.

The assumption that declining population levels will reduce the pressure on fire brigades is a fallacy. On the contrary, the demands are going to increase, Lower Saxony’s Ministry of Interior Affairs argues in a recent published document. The ageing population is just one factor. In addition, fire brigade personnel need to acquire new technical, social and intercultural skills. For example, dealing with elderly people in emergency situations requires great sensitivity and empathy. The number of cases involving helpless and/or confused persons (e.g. in connection with house fires and road accidents) will increase significantly in the years to come.

This will be accompanied by a perceptible rise in the average age of fire brigade personnel. This means that fewer physically fit firemen will be available for challenging assignments (e.g. when breathing apparatus has to be worn). Ninety-eight percent of Lower Saxony’s fire-fighting personnel are volunteers. According to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, their numbers have declined by ten percent over the past ten years. In other words, fewer and fewer firemen have to deal with more and more call outs.

The fire brigades are more dependent than ever before on the support of employers. In the past membership of a voluntary fire brigade was seen as a sign of social commitment. Now it is increasingly perceived as a disadvantage. Companies fear that staff absences will lead to revenue losses. The concentration of work processes means that individual employees are becoming more and more indispensable.

“All those concerned are called up to make proposals and work towards solutions aimed at maintaining the performance potential of the fire brigades,” says Jörg Schallhorn, Lower Saxony’s senior fire officer.

“INTERSCHUTZ 2015 offers an excellent opportunity for an exchange of ideas between employers and emergency service workers – and for joint recruitment activities.”

Last year Lower Saxony’s Ministry of Interior Affairs, chambers of commerce and skilled trades chambers signed a joint declaration calling for the mutual promotion of civic commitment.

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**Studying safety and security**

Research Forum publishes brochure containing more than 80 different courses

The Research Forum on Public Safety and Security has published a brochure outlining the opportunities for studying safety and security-related subjects at university level. Eighty course offerings are described on a total of 109 pages. This publication supports the research program launched by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

[www.schriftenreihe-sicherheit.de](http://www.schriftenreihe-sicherheit.de)
Preparing for the worst
LUKEX 2015 will simulate a severe storm tide

Five months after INTERSCHUTZ, in November 2015, disaster-relief experts will congregate once again in North Germany under the umbrella of the crisis management exercise “LUKEX 2015”. Last year’s exercise simulated a food-borne virus epidemic. In 2015 the focus will shift to a severe storm tide along the North Sea coast. The goal is to streamline strategic cooperation between the regional and federal authorities in the event of an exceptional national emergency.

The four federal states located on the North Sea coast (i.e. Lower Saxony, Bremen, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein) will train an integrated response to a simulated crisis situation. In particular, the goal is to coordinate the work of the national and regional crisis teams, as well as the central and local civil defence authorities. This includes alerting the population, collaboration with critical infrastructure operators and the maintenance of essential services.

The simulation assumes that an exceptional storm tide has inundated the North German lowlands and the adjacent areas. Due to sustained high water levels in rivers and waterways, there is also a serious risk of flooding in the hinterland. This scenario will be augmented by widespread evacuations and the failure of critical services such as energy and public transport, with corresponding cascade effects in inland areas.

Extending from Friesland in the west to Hamburg in the east, LUKEX 2015 will directly involve the civil defence organizations and the police authorities in Oldenburg and Lüneburg. Other civil defence authorities – eleven in Lower Saxony alone – will participate to a lesser extent.

The forthcoming LUKEX exercise will also extend to the federal states of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Brandenburg, Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt and Rhineland-Palatinate. “The cooperative anticipation of disasters and crises is an important element in a functioning risk avoidance system,” explains Mirko Temmler, the project manager responsible for LUKEX at Lower Saxony’s Interior Ministry. “As is the case in a real-life situation, it is important to act together, promote mutual understanding and make an important contribution to our safety and security.”

At the beginning of this year a four-person group at the Interior Ministry commenced preparations for LUKEX 2015 together with their counterparts in the partner organizations and authorities. “We have put together a great team which has acquired extensive experience with such exercises, including previous LUKEX simulations,” Temmler emphasizes.

Fire damage statistics: additional input requested

Launched one year ago by the German Fire Protection Association (vfdb), the “Fire Damage Statistics” project has already evoked a positive response throughout Germany. The participating brigades have been requested to describe fire incidents in buildings according to standardized criteria contained in a report sheet. According to Thomas Hegger, the acting head of Department 14 at the vfdb, the results will be published at INTERSCHUTZ 2015. Now that the project is entering its final phase the initiators would welcome input from as many fire brigades as possible.

The report sheets should be filled in after each incident, officially stamped and then mailed either to "statistik@vfdb.de" or to Hochschule Furtwangen, Stichwort Brandschadenstatistik-Projekt, Robert-Gerwig-Platz 1, 78120 Furtwangen.
New technology, new information, rapid response

Emergency data sheets are a vital source of information at the scene of an accident

Road deaths have declined continuously in recent years. Nevertheless, traffic accidents still account for the largest proportion of severe and fatal injuries – despite all the efforts of carmakers to improve the active and passive safety of their vehicles. Modern automotive technology, however, poses new challenges to the emergency services. In the event of accidents they have to deal effectively with high-strength materials, active safety devices and alternative powertrain systems.

“A special Rescue Task Force – consisting of representatives of the German Automotive Industry Association (VDA), the fire service organizations DFV, AGBF and vfdb, as well as the Association of Emergency Physicians – has developed the so-called emergency data sheet,” reports Karsten Göwecke, Head of Dept. 6 of the German Fire Protection Association (vfdb) and Deputy Fire Brigade Director in Berlin. “This data sheet has now been defined in the vfdb guideline 0601. International standardization is now in progress within the framework of ISO TC 22.”

The next step was to assign these rescue data sheets to individual vehicles. “The outcome is a sustainable, future-proof system that enables the emergency services to access vehicle-specific information while on the way to the scene of an incident,” Karsten Göwecke explains.

“The Berlin Fire Brigade has gained positive experience with this system,” Karsten Göwecke confirms. “Now that online access functions reliably, our firemen rate this new information source very highly. It is now up to the emergency-service control rooms to exploit the full potential of the system and streamline procedures.”

According to Göwecke, there is a particular need for information about vehicles equipped with innovative hybrid and electric powertrains. Further information about the Emergency Data Sheet will be available during INTERSCHUTZ 2015 at the group presentation staged by the vfdb and AGBF.

Ideas for improvements are already on the agenda. For example, it would be an advantage if emergency response teams could access the data sheet directly at the scene of the accident on the basis of the car’s registration number, i.e. without having to consult the control centre. This procedure is already applied in the Netherlands and saves valuable time. “Initial discussions are under way which may soon lead to further improvements,” Göwecke says. “We hope to report on new developments at INTERSCHUTZ in Hannover.”

Simulation: reality in the classroom

They emit sounds, their pupils dilate and contract and they react immediately to correct and incorrect treatment. We are talking here about practice dummies for future members of ambulance services. “Regular team-based training is a prerequisite for top professional performance,” says Christian Mandel, spokesman for the Combined Ambulance Services in Schleswig-Holstein (RKISH). “For this reason we deploy medical simulation in all our initial and further training activities.” Training takes place in two special ambulance vehicles, as well as at the RKISH training centre in Heide.

Simulation is gaining in importance in other areas as well. One example is the “CHRISTOPH LIFE” simulator at the Johanniter Academy in Hannover, which provides high-quality training for air ambulance crews.

According to Kersten Enke, Principal of the Johanniter Academy in Hannover, simulation is here to stay. “State-of-the-art computer technology creates a realistic learning situation and also provides a basis for monitoring effectiveness. With the aid of simulation we can transport reality directly into the classroom.”
“Intuition is not enough”
Safety research is gathering momentum in Germany – vfdb President answers three key questions

Safety-related research is a relatively new discipline. It covers a wide range of areas in which there is a need for further scientific enquiry and findings. In this respect INTERSCHUTZ 2015 will provide a shop window for the latest findings and trends. We discussed current developments with Dirk Aschenbrenner, President of the German Fire Protection Association (vfdb).

INTERSCHUTZ News: In which areas is there an urgent need for research? Or put differently: Where are research efforts concentrated at present?

Aschenbrenner: Safety research is a very young discipline. Many areas are still unexplored. In the past developments were often based exclusively on practical experience, estimates and “intuition”. However, public safety and security assignments have become more complex and far-reaching. At the same time the parameters are changing at a rapid rate. One example is the ageing population and the decline in the birth rate.

The only way to overcome these challenges is to adopt a structured, analytical and comprehensive approach – i.e. to apply scientific methods. In addition, scientific research offers a perfect opportunity to foster innovation in the area of fire prevention, assistance, rescue and disaster relief in line with specific practical requirements and under excellent scientific conditions.

INTERSCHUTZ News: Does the vfdb conduct its own research?

Aschenbrenner: The vfdb is currently involved in two research projects: The TIBRO project sets out to analyze Germany’s firefighting infrastructure and make recommendations for future-proofing the country’s fire brigades. The starting point is the so-called ORBIT study carried out in the 1970s, which still forms the basis for today’s requirement planning. Due to the changed parameters, this study is in need of a thorough scientific review. The goal is to develop requirement planning tools that correspond to the current technological state-of-the-art and anticipate future developments.

The BaSiGo project centres on improving safety at large-scale public events. Due to the complexity and diversity of the various parameters, planning and implementing such events can pose a major challenge. The aim is to develop procedures and methods which take account of the above-mentioned criteria and ensure maximum safety.

Apart from the vfdb, various fire brigades are actively engaged in safety research. For example, the Berlin Fire Brigade is investigating how to identify and involve specifically trained volunteers in the event of major disasters. The role of these volunteers is to bridge the gap until sufficient numbers of trained professionals arrive at the scene. The research goals centre on the reliable identification, notification and deployment of skilled civilian helpers.

For several years Dortmund Fire Brigade has been operating the “Institute for Fire Brigade and Rescue Technology” (IFR) in close cooperation with Paderborn University. The focus here is on information technology and organization. Within the framework of the ANCHORS project the IFR is exploring the possibilities for deploying unmanned systems (ground-based robots and airborne vehicles) in order to monitor large radioactive clouds.

INTERSCHUTZ News: Where does Germany stand internationally in the area of fire and disaster research and what are your expectations with regard to INTERSCHUTZ 2015?

Aschenbrenner: Although it is a relatively new discipline, safety-related research in Germany has rapidly gained momentum and produced impressive results. This indicates that such research is in high demand and that considerable scientific potential is available. Thanks to the research efforts of the vfdb and the various fire brigades, Germany has carved out a unique position and has become an attractive research partner in the context of the European Union.

INTERSCHUTZ 2015 represents an opportunity to present practical research projects to potential users and underline the long-term benefits of safety-related research. In a dialogue with the fire brigades, the relief agency THW, aid organizations, the political community and industry it will be possible to transform research findings into innovative products and to generate new research topics.
Proposals requested for the 2015 Genscher Award

INTERSCHUTZ 2015 will provide the setting for the presentation of the Hans-Dietrich Genscher Award. This prize goes to persons who have saved lives in exceptional circumstances. The organization "Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe", which launched the award in 1995, invites the public to propose candidates by 20 April 2015 (www.genscherpreis.de).

The Hans-Dietrich Genscher Award is targeted at adult lifesavers – both professional and non-professional – and is worth € 2,500. Since 2003 "Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe" has also awarded a junior prize to persons under 18.

The Award commemorates the commitment of the former Federal Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who played a key role in establishing a nationwide helicopter ambulance service in Germany.

At your service: the INTERSCHUTZ Team

Bernd Heinold
Project Director
Tel. +49 511 89-32110
bernd.heinold@messe.de

Jörg-Uwe Strauß
Project Manager
Commercial Exhibitors
Stand Allocation
Tel. +49 511 89-33125
joerg-uewe.strauss@messe.de

Dorothee Bock
Project Assistant
Fire Prevention
Non-commercial Exhibitors
Tel. +49 511 89-32111
dorothee.bock@messe.de

Susan Canisius
Project Manager
Responsible for:
Safety/Security,
Disaster Relief
Tel. +49 511 89-31152
susan.canisius@messe.de

Janine Wendt
Project Manager
Responsible for: Rescue
Tel. +49 511 89-32179
janine.wendt@messe.de

Ina Görzen
Project Assistant
Organization
Tel. +49 511 89-32138
ina.goerzen@messe.de

Nicole Schlegelmilch
Project Assistant
Organization
Tel. +49 511 89-32136
nicole.schlegelmilch@messe.de

Andrea Staude
Press Spokeswoman
Tel. +49 511 89-31015
andrea.staude@messe.de

Jörg-Uwe Strauß
Project Manager
Commercial Exhibitors
Standing Order
Tel. +49 511 89-33125
joerg-uewe.strauss@messe.de

Dorothee Bock
Project Assistant
Fire Prevention
Non-commercial Exhibitors
Tel. +49 511 89-32111
dorothee.bock@messe.de

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Bernd Heinold
Project Director
Tel. +49 511 89-32110
bernd.heinold@messe.de

Jörg-Uwe Strauß
Project Manager
Commercial Exhibitors
Stand Allocation
Tel. +49 511 89-33125
joerg-uewe.strauss@messe.de

Dorothee Bock
Project Assistant
Fire Prevention
Non-commercial Exhibitors
Tel. +49 511 89-32111
dorothee.bock@messe.de

Susan Canisius
Project Manager
Responsible for:
Safety/Security,
Disaster Relief
Tel. +49 511 89-31152
susan.canisius@messe.de

Janine Wendt
Project Manager
Responsible for: Rescue
Tel. +49 511 89-32179
janine.wendt@messe.de

Ina Görzen
Project Assistant
Organization
Tel. +49 511 89-32138
ina.goerzen@messe.de

Nicole Schlegelmilch
Project Assistant
Organization
Tel. +49 511 89-32136
nicole.schlegelmilch@messe.de

Andrea Staude
Press Spokeswoman
Tel. +49 511 89-31015
andrea.staude@messe.de

Layout plan of INTERSCHUTZ 2015

Fire Prevention
Hall 13
Fire extinguishing technology and agents
Structural engineering, technical fire and building protection
Equipment for fire stations and workshops
Halls 25, 27
Vehicles and vehicle equipment
Technical literature, model making, fan articles, gifts
Open-air site (FG), Pavilions 32–35
Vehicles and vehicle equipment
Fire extinguishing technology and agents

Disaster Relief
Halls 25, 26, Open-air site (FG)
Vehicles and vehicle equipment
Equipment for technical support and disaster relief

Rescue
Halls 25, 26, Open-air site (FG)
Vehicles and vehicle equipment
Rescue, emergency, First-aid and medical equipment

Safety and Security
Hall 12
Personal protective equipment
Measuring and detection apparatus
Security System, Control-station and signaling equipment,
Mechanical Security systems, Individual devices for electronic security systems
Information and organization
Open-air site (FG)
Personal protective equipment

Associations, organizations, service companies
Halls 12, 13, 25, 26, 27, Open-air site (FG), Pavilions 32–35