

News from Hanover

This 27th April, the Hanover Fair closed its doors on the last 8-days international industrial show. Next year, the fair will be open from Monday 3/4/95 to Saturday 8/4/95. The organisers and exhibitors were happy with the success of the fair as the amount of visitors was unexpectedly higher than foreseen. The impression was one of incredible activity. Stands were full of interested visitors even if the amount of new products presented was appreciably lower than the previous years. Most of the recently developed techniques are improved, new applications are found. The conservative industrialist is courted to switch over to state-of-the-art technology. The latest developments are introduced in low power products at a competitive price for mass production. Last but not least, the time has come now for industry to invest again. 37 % of the professionals attending the fair arrived with concrete investment plans. This figure is significantly higher than the last year's.

The principles involved in the proposed products are complex even if manufacturers propose systems that look more like easy to use black boxes. The right approach for a successful investment stays the efficiently engineered system approach. Unfortunately, new structures in most companies put such a pressure on their employees that little attention is paid to simple ways to keep in touch with state-of-the-art technology as specialised press reading, short seminars, not talking about more in-deep education as tutorials or continued education. The recent clear cuts that were performed in some R&D teams due to the bad economical situation start to show up the results. It will increase the gap between well-managed, healthy companies and the others and it will definitely hurt.

Anyway, this fair was optimistic. In this issue, some of the hits are presented. There will be more in the third issue, next september, and, as ever, the central pages will bring you a flavour of the ever developping science and technology that will make our daily life tomorrow.

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Editor

