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A Triumph of Innovation and Resilience: EuroBLECH 2024 Wraps Up with Encouraging Results

Amidst ongoing global challenges, the sheet metal working industry showcased its dedication to progress and growth at the 27th International Sheet Metal Working Technology Exhibition, EuroBLECH 2024. With 38,946 trade visitors from 114 countries and 1.317 exhibitors on 160,000sqm gross space, the event reaffirmed its role as the world's leading platform for innovation and business in this sector. A sense of cautious optimism dominated the halls, with many exhibitors securing substantial orders.

Despite the slowing global economy, there was widespread agreement that key markets will eventually bounce back and grow, together with a clear commitment to driving the necessary transformational change. Determined to focus on new opportunities, the industry has been intensifying its push for innovation. The proactive stance on technological progress was matched with a notable willingness from buyers to consider new investment.

The four-day event delivered massively on visitor quality, with the majority of visitors classifying as key decision makers. The number of unique visitors increased by 3%, with a strong presence from Germany which has recently gained in market importance for certain technology sectors. Besides Germany, the top visitor countries in 2024 were the Netherlands, Italy, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, Austria, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, and Switzerland. There has been a significant growth in visitor numbers from Asia (Japan, Taiwan, India) and South America (notably Argentina), pointing towards promising new markets for the sheet metal working industry.

Pressure to innovate continues to spur significant technological advancements

EuroBLECH's impressive nine exhibition halls hosted a wealth of product launches and ground-breaking innovations, sending a bold signal for technological progress and growth opportunities within the sector. Throughout all 15 technology areas, machine makers displayed a clear commitment to enhancing production efficiency through technical innovation.

Key technologies included, but were not limited to: a new AI vision system for fully automated sorting of laser-cut parts; remote machine diagnostics and monitoring for fast troubleshooting and servicing; highly automated factory systems that integrate people, machines, and data into smart production flows; folding machines with fully automatic tool changer; simplified and robust laser-cutting machines particularly suited for new users; modular or compact bending cells for smaller production environments; a substantial 20kW high-speed and high-precision fibre laser cutting machine for extra demanding applications; AI-driven robotic software for complex and adaptive applications; and many other advancements.

Transformative power of innovation – realised and recognised

Of the many innovation leaders on the exhibition stands, 76 companies were shortlisted for the prestigious EuroBLECH 2024 Award, organised in partnership with blechnet and MM

MaschinenMarkt. The six winners, chosen by public vote, were recognised for their commitment to advancing technical excellence in:

- Stamping and Forming: Amada, for their fully automatic bending robot cell 'EGB-1303ARse';
- Cutting Technology: TRUMPF, for their bevel cutting on 2D laser cutting machines;
- Joining Technology: Weil Technology, for their laser welding system 'LWC-RT4-BPP';
- Surface Technology: Q-Fin, for their small parts finishing machine 'Q-Fin F250';
- Automation and Handling: Reis Robotics, for their robot controller 'ROBOTstar VII';
- Sustainability: Bosch Rexroth, for their energy-efficient, servo-hydraulic drive solution for deep-drawing presses.

The runner-ups were: Airco, BENEVA, Bystronic, CNC Europe/LASERMACH, EMC, ENGMAR, EPCM Expert, Hans Weber Maschinenfabrik, MicroStep Europa, Schuler, and Wilson Tool. Visitors were also invited to explore the new Award Trails, featuring all 76 shortlisted companies and their innovations.

On and off the show floor: Energising mix of knowledge, engagement and fresh talent

Two dedicated Presentation Areas in Halls 26 and 27 hosted live talks by prominent change-makers, covering key developments in automation and digitalisation. A special Panel Discussion focused specifically on solutions for small and medium-sized businesses. On the show floor, the new Guided Tours launched with success, offering visitors new opportunities to efficiently engage with interesting productivity trends and suppliers.

EuroBLECH 2024 also reinforced its commitment to championing young talent and fresh approaches within the industry. One in five exhibitors was new at EuroBLECH, adding valuable input to the event. This included a group of promising start-ups in the 'Young Innovators' Pavilion in Hall 15 which highlighted young businesses and innovations from Germany. On Friday's Careers Day, EuroBLECH welcomed students and apprentices who benefitted from free admission and the unique opportunity to engage with ground-breaking technologies and world-class suppliers.

Industry's benchmark event sparks positive outlook and optimism for the future

The event ended on a high note after four productive days of fostering connections across the sheet metal supply chain and unlocking new potential for industry players. The successful turnout added to a sense of optimism and achievement among participants.

"This year's EuroBLECH has proven vital for the sheet metal working community, which has shown remarkable resilience and innovation amid economic challenge", says Evelyn Warwick, Event Director of EuroBLECH, on behalf of RX. "This year's event marked a strategic milestone for many companies as it delivered – once again – an impressive showcase of technological advancements in a promising business environment. We thank all our participants for making EuroBLECH such a vibrant platform for exchange and growth – their enthusiasm and active engagement in meaningful conversations, ideas, and business ventures is what drives our industry forward."

Looking ahead with confidence: EuroBLECH returns in October 2026

The industry remains strongly committed to EuroBLECH as their primary platform for innovation, business, and growth. Following this year's success, many exhibitors have already confirmed their participation for the next edition. EuroBLECH 2026 is set to take place from 20 – 23 October 2026 in Hanover again.

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About RX

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