

Design and Manufacturing

DRAWS REGIONAL PLAYERS DOWN SOUTH



18,000 attendees are expected to fill the exhibition hall at AM Expo/ATX South to check out the latest automation technology. (Courtesy of Canon Communications.)

Come one, come all. The largest advanced design and manufacturing event in the Southeast, AM Expo/ATX South, is at the Charlotte Convention Center for the second year in a row. The exhibitors are suppliers of custom automation/assembly systems, robotics, vision inspection systems, control software and hardware, sensors, motion control, drives, motors and more. Quality and productivity are the keywords for manufacturers investing in the latest automation to stay competitive.

“This once-in-a-generation economy that we are in has created an urgent need for manufacturers to make improvements to their processes and business models,” says Peter DiLeo, Canon Communications group marketing manager. “Attendees to AM Expo/ATX South will find that it is a buyers’ market, and suppliers will be sharper and more competitive than ever with their products and services. Now is the time to make their business stronger and more profitable, and the number one reason for buying equipment is cost reduction.”

The attendees will include production and manufacturing managers, packaging and process engineers, engineering managers, project managers, design engineers, operations managers, purchasing staff and corporate managers.

Charlotte was chosen for the show because there are more than 15,000 manufacturing outlets in the region, which annually produce \$240 billion in manufacturing output, according to show organizer Canon Communications. Organizers received much positive feedback from the previous year. “Charlotte and the Charlotte Convention Center are very convenient to get to—far more so than Atlanta was the year before,” DiLeo says. “It is also convenient for the attendees from South Carolina, where many past/loyal visitors are from due to the show being there for so many years.”

The entire event comprises six shows—SouthPack, Design and Manufacturing South, PLASTECH South, Green Manufacturing Expo and two new additions: MetalTec and Plant Engineering South. Attendees are free to wander more than 700 exhibiting companies using over 120,000 net square feet of exhibit space. One badge provides access to all the shows, and conference admission is open to any of the sessions.

A new feature to the show in 2009 is the Lean Factory,



FANUC robotic equipment in action. (Courtesy of Canon Communications.)

which consists of demonstrative, educational sessions that are free with the expo hall admission. Some of the topics discussed include the importance of a data-driven approach to line design, the need to create an environment that supports lean with the right equipment and infrastructure and the tools to create a visual factory. Demonstrations include a step-by-step creation of a utopian lean production environment and a build display on an optimum lean line. The Lean Factory is produced by Bosch Rexroth, Orgatex, Leonardo Group Americas and Automation Technology. Interested attendees are recommended to reserve a space on the show website, www.AM-Expo.com.

Lean manufacturing is an overarching theme present in each of the conference sessions. “Lean manufacturing is the number one requested conference session at all our shows,” DiLeo says. “In these tough economic times, nearly one-third of manufacturing facilities will dedicate resources to implement lean manufacturing in 2009. At our flagship assembly event, Assembly Technology Expo, September 22–24, 2009 in Rosemont, IL, we will have nearly 40 sessions addressing all facets of lean manufacturing.”

The Advanced Manufacturing Expo and Conference/Automation Technology Expo South takes place March 11–12, 2009 at the Charlotte Convention Center. For more information, visit www.AM-Expo.com or call (310) 445-4200.



One show onlooker pauses to inspect vacuum technology on display by PIAB. (Courtesy of Canon Communications.)

calendar

February 17–19—Expo Manufactura. Cintermex, Monterrey, Mexico. This international manufacturing trade show is Mexico's rendition of IMTS in its 14th installment. The event includes more than 350 companies, representing over 600 brands from around the world. 8,500 professionals are expected to attend in search of equipment, machinery, processes and solutions for industries that include automotive, aeronautical, electrical appliance and medical devices. A conference program includes keynote speeches, seminars, presentations and manufacturing solutions on Six Sigma practices and other efficiency standards. For more information, visit www.expomanufactura.com.mx, or contact Shane Poblete at (301) 493-5500.

February 24–26—Houstex 2009. George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston. Organized by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, this event looks to stimulate ideas, expertise and business connections in manufacturing technology. On showcase will be advanced machine tools and production systems for industries including energy, medical and aerospace. An advanced technology conference will address "Manufacturing Processes for Oil and Gas." Houstex is co-located with the International Pump Users Symposium, and attendee badges provide full access to both shows. For more information, visit www.sme.org/houstex.

March 3–4—Motor, Drive and Automation Systems Conference. The Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL. This two-day conference is focused on the latest advancements and economics in electric motor, drive automation and power systems efficiency and technology. The topics include new motors, drives and automation systems, system design and integration for optimum performance, power systems efficiency & power electronics technology, new components & materials, advancements in electronics and control, testing systems and techniques. The sessions will also cover market and financial aspects such as supply and demand pricing for motors, drives, controls, materials and components as they relate to total system economics. The conference is intended for OEM design engineers and product developers that integrate motors, drives and automation systems into their products and equipment; developers and manufacturers of motors, drives and integrated systems; component, material and technology providers. For more information, visit www.e-driveonline.com.

March 9–12—AGG1 Aggregates Forum & Expo. Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL. AGG1 Aggregates Forum & Expo focuses exclusively on the aggregates industry and features industry-focused educational programming and exhibits showcasing the latest technologies and innovations in aggregates-related equipment, products and services. AGG1 is geared to the decision makers and

buyers from the companies that produce crushed stone, sand and gravel in the marketplace, including company owners, senior managers, plant managers, superintendents, regional managers, engineers, technical professionals and safety managers. The expo is co-located with the World of Asphalt 2009, and product pavilions include environment, safety and health; dredging; finance/lease; testing; and information technology. More than 400 exhibitors will span 100,000 net square feet of space, and 6,000 visitors from around the world are expected to attend. The exhibits display a wide range of aggregate-related equipment, products and services, and some incorporate demonstrations and technology. For more information, visit www.agg1.org.

April 20–24—Hannover Messe. Hannover Fairgrounds, Hannover, Germany. The 2009 Hannover Messe comprises 13 trade shows: INTERKAMA; Factory Automation; Industrial Building Automation; MDA - Motion, Drive & Automation; Digital Factory; Subcontracting; Energy; Wind; Power Plant Technology; ComVac; Surface Technology; MicroTechnology; and Research & Technology. This is the first year the event includes the Wind fair, and it is set to take place every two years. About 2,000 congresses, discussion forums, seminars and workshops take place, including a world energy dialogue, which will focus on sustainable future energy supplies. For more information, visit www.hannovermesse.de.

April 27–30—International Fastener and Precision Formed Parts Manufacturing Exposition and Conference I-X Center, Cleveland, OH. This four-day event attracts buyers looking for the latest in equipment, products, systems and services for bringing fasteners and precision formed parts to customers. IFE is co-located with Interwire, the largest wire and cable event in the United States, sponsored by Wire Association International. All attendees can attend the complimentary conference program consisting of seminars on the newest technology, application studies and industry developments. Between the two events, more than 600 exhibitors are anticipated to span 150,000 square feet. For more information, visit www.ifetradeshow.com or e-mail info@ifetradeshow.com.