



TRACK TO THE FUTURE

IAF-INFOBRIEF MARCH 2025

FINAL SPURT TO IAF 2025 – THE TRACK TECHNOLOGY TRADE FAIR OF THE YEAR!

The countdown is running! In a few months, the 29th International Exhibition of Track Technology (**iaf**) 2025 will open its doors. As the leading trade fair for the rail infrastructure industry, the **iaf** once again promises to present innovations, trends and solutions for the future of rail transport. For exhibitors and visitors, it's now time to kick into high gear with the preparations!

Whether you want to present your latest technologies or find out about future-oriented developments, the time has come to plan your participation. In this newsletter, you will find all the important details and news you need for a successful trade fair appearance or visit. Let's work together to set the course for an innovative and sustainable future for track technology.

We look forward to welcoming you to Münster soon!

VISITOR REGISTRATION IAF 2025 IN MÜNSTER: YOUR EXCLUSIVE INDUSTRY EVENT

Secure your place at the **iaf** 2025, the industry highlight from 20 to 22 May in Münster! As a trade visitor, you benefit from numerous advantages:

Free tickets:

- You can book your free ticket online until 17 May 2025
- From 18 May 2025, a processing fee of €20.00 will apply

Comprehensive services:

- Access to the entire trade fair on all three days
- Free use of public transport from Münster train station to the exhibition halls
- Wi-Fi access in the halls and outdoor areas

Unique networking opportunities:

- Over 160 international exhibitors
- Expected number of participants: more than 15,000 trade visitors

Don't miss this opportunity to exchange ideas with industry experts and discover the latest innovations. Book your ticket now at www.iaf-messe.com/en/visitor-registration and be part of this important industry event!





Use the QR code to go directly to register for **iaf** 2025.

During the **iaf**, visitors have the opportunity to attend workshops and lectures on various topics related to track technology in the **iaf** Salon. The programme is designed together with exhibitors and offers expert knowledge as well as the opportunity for exhibitors to present world premieres and products.

INFORMATION AT A GLANCE



The official website www.iaf-messe.com is your digital gateway to the International Exhibition for Track Technology (**iaf**) 2025.

Here you will find all the essential information, registration options, dates and services, directions and service contact details for exhibitors and visitors.

ADMISSION AND OPENING HOURS

Tuesday, 20 May 2025: 09:00 – 18:00

Wednesday, 21 May 2025: 09:00 – 18:00

Thursday, 22 May 2025: 09:00 – 18:00

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FOR THE 29TH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION FOR TRACK TECHNOLOGY (IAF)

The **iaf** 2025 is just around the corner! The renowned trade fair will begin on 20 May 2025. Secure your place as an exhibitor now.

This is how to register:

1. Visit our website:

www.iaf-messe.com/en/registration

2. For returning exhibitors:

- Your company data is already stored in the system
- Please check and update it carefully

3. For new exhibitors:

- Please enter your company data in full
- Let us know your stand location preferences

After your registration, our team will:

- Confirm your participation
- Send a tailor-made proposal for your stand location

Take this opportunity to present your company at one of the most important platforms for the rail infrastructure industry. We look forward to welcoming you as an exhibitor at **iaf** 2025!

iaf 2025



12,175 visitors
from 80 countries (2022)



156 exhibitors
from 20 countries



32 heavy-duty machines
modern & innovative (2022)



76% of exhibitors
rate business success of trade fair participation as good or even excellent (2022)



86% of the visitors
had a good or very good impression of the fair (2022)



92% of visitors
definitely or most likely want to visit the **iaf** again in 2025 (2022)

THE IAF SALON: A CENTRAL MEETING PLACE FOR THE INDUSTRY

For over a decade, the **iaf** Salon has established itself as an important platform for professional exchange in the industry. In 2025, this tradition will continue, with the salon being presented with a new look in hall Mitte.

A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXHIBITORS AND VISITORS

For exhibitors::

- Bookable time slots for company presentations, product presentations or seminars
- Opportunity to present innovations, products and services

For visitors:

- Direct discussions with exhibitors
- Access to specialist lectures and expert panels
- Information about the latest industry developments

Programme integration and further information

The programme of the **iaf** Salon will be integrated into the official trade fair information materials and advertising. Detailed information on bookable slots, the exact programme and prices can be found at www.iaf-messe.com/en/program. The **iaf** Salon 2025 promises to remain a central point of contact for industry experts and offers a unique opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing and the presentation of innovations.

RECRUITING YOUNG TALENT IN TRACK ENGINEERING: INNOVATION NEEDS BOLD MINDS

The shortage of skilled workers in the railway sector remains a key challenge: by 2030, more than 33,000 engineers will have to be recruited in Germany alone. The **iaf** 2025 offers a unique platform for this: students, interested parties, professionals and career changers can gain practical insights into modern track construction machines, digitalisation strategies and career paths – from planning to maintenance – in the **iaf** Salon, among other things. Despite a decline in the number of students at the national level – particularly among women – we are seeing international interest: 40% of our STEM students

come from abroad, with a balanced gender distribution. Retaining talent requires three things:

1. **Increase attractiveness:** for example, the master's programme in civil engineering with a focus on the 'construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure' at the Technical University of Darmstadt is designed to be bilingual for interdisciplinary and internationally oriented engineering work. In addition, we need to promote STEM subjects at the national level. In particular, these must be made attractive at school.

2. **Reducing bureaucracy:** Making it easier to recruit qualified international specialists, including specialists from non-EU countries with German degrees.

3. **Promoting resilience:** Mentoring programmes and agile project formats can help to reduce the dropout rate (currently around 30% on average) – a strong nervous system is crucial not only for successful studies but also for dynamic and complex infrastructure projects. The VDEI offers such support. The VDEI women's network, for example, is an ideal platform.

Research and practice must work symbiotically: 85% of innovations in superstructures result from cooperation between universities and industry. The **iaf** promotes this transfer – for example, through the VDEI Sponsorship Award 2025 for groundbreaking theses. 'Once a railwayman, always a railwayman' – this guiding principle reflects the fascination of my profession, which demands new solutions for tomorrow's mobility every day. Use the **iaf** 2025 to experience this diversity live and become part of the transformation.

Prof Dr.-Ing. Jia Liu
Darmstadt University of Technology |
Institute for Transport Infrastructure

Source: private



THE VDEI DISTRICT OF ESSEN AND THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE IAF IN MÜNSTER



Colleagues from the Essen district (Gerhard Wolff, Olaf Scholtz-Knobloch, Franziska Cortés and Burkhard Rieche from the VDEI Essen district and Waldemar Henschel (†) from the presidium (2nd from right) meet for a preliminary discussion for the stand service at the iaf 2022.

Source: VDEI Essen district

The International Exhibition for Track Technology (**iaf**) has become one of the most important trade fairs for track technology worldwide. Its origins can be traced back to the VDEI district of Essen, which played a significant role in its founding. Münster falls under the jurisdiction of the Essen district. Their dedicated members were instrumental in bringing this specialized fair to Münster and fostering its development.

Today, the **iaf** is a well-established event in the industry, attracting trade visitors from across the globe. It serves as a platform for showcasing the latest innovations in rail construction, maintenance, and technology. Traditionally, colleagues from the Essen district manage the VDEI booth, supported by the VDEI-Service GmbH team.

The UEEIV also regularly participates in the trade fair to strengthen international relationships. This year, the spotlight is on the **iaf**'s host country, Italy, represented by numerous companies. Like the VDEI, the Italian Railway Engineers' Association (CIFI) is an active European member of the UEEIV.

The **iaf** thus continues to be an indispensable event for the rail industry.

DSV AS OFFICIAL LOGISTICS SERVICE PROVIDER FOR IAF 2025

As a leading global freight forwarding company, DSV is proud to be once more the official logistics service provider for the 29th International Exhibition of Track Technology (**iaf**). With the upcoming acquisition of DB Schenker, DSV will have an outstanding logistics network and will be represented at all major trade fair locations. 'Our dedicated DSV logistics team for the **iaf** consists of five employees in the office and an extensive technical team. We have already handled numerous transport and logistics requests, including heavy loads with a total length of up to 42 metres and machines with individual weights of up to 53 tonnes,' explains Stefan Görlich, Manager Fairs & Event at DSV. 'The exhibits will be precisely placed on the open-air grounds, supported by several mobile cranes with a lifting capacity of up to 250 tonnes. We will provide forklift trucks with a lifting capacity of up to 14 tonnes for loading and unloading all exhibits and ensure smooth storage of full and empty containers throughout the entire event. Our team will be available daily from Monday, 12 May, until the end of dismantling on 27 May 2025 at the DSV service office in the auction ring (next to the South Hall).' Detailed information and order forms for logistics and technical equipment are already available in the Organiser's Online Service Center (OSC) portal. 'We look forward to supporting each exhibitor with all their logistical needs and are always available to answer questions,' says Görlich.

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Thomas Bauer, Philipp Hofmann, Jan Spitzl, Stefan Görlich, Irina Zimmermann without photo (f. l. t. r.) | Source: DSV

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR STEPHAN SCHULTE; TRACK DESIGN, I.IAI 2 DB INFRAGO AG

What significance does **iaf** 2025 have for the railway construction industry and rail transport?

iaf 2025 is the central industry get-together and the most important source of inspiration for innovations in railway construction. It showcases the latest technologies over more than 24,000 m² and promotes international exchange. It is of crucial importance for rail transport, as solutions for a more efficient and sustainable rail network are developed here

2. How does the VDEI e.V. contribute to the further development of track technology?

The VDEI e.V. plays a key role in networking industry, research and operators. Through technical committees such as the one for superstructures, it promotes the transfer of knowledge and provides a platform for innovations. The association is committed to reliable framework conditions and supports the industry in overcoming current challenges such as the shortage of skilled workers and digitalisation.

3. What has already been achieved and what are the goals for the future of track technology?

Significant progress has been made in sustainability, such as the development of plastic sleepers and hybrid rail vehicles. Future goals include further digitalisation of the industry, improving working conditions and increasing attractiveness for young talent. In the long term, the aim is to achieve more efficient maintenance and more robust renewal of the rail network in order to increase the capacity and reliability of rail transport.

4. What role does planning security play in the future of rail transport in Germany?

Planning security is crucial for the future of rail transport. Currently, there is a lack of stable, long-term commitments in Germany, which makes it difficult to invest in new technologies and infrastructure. The aim is to obtain political commitments that extend beyond legislative periods, ideally with a planning horizon of ten years. This would enable the industry to make sustainable investments and significantly increase the performance of the rail network.



Impression of the logistics process at the last event in 2022 at the Halle Münsterland exhibition centre

Source: DSV

IAF 2025: ITALY AS GUEST COUNTRY

Welcome, Italy, as a guest country at the **iaf** trade fair! Your participation underlines the importance of integrated European rail transport and promotes the exchange of innovations and best practices. Italy's rail network, with a length of about 17,000 km, faces exciting challenges and opportunities.

Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI) is investing heavily in modernising and expanding the rail network. Investments of over 100 billion euros are planned by 2029 to improve the infrastructure and implement new high-speed lines. By comparison, Germany has a rail network of around 33,400 km. Both countries are focusing on expanding high-speed lines and modernising existing infrastructure in order to meet the growing demands for mobility and sustainability. Italy faces the challenge of shifting more freight traffic to rail.

By 2030, the share of rail freight traffic is expected to increase to 30%, compared to 12.6% in 2015. Germany is already ahead with 19%, but is also aiming for a further increase. A significant development is the expansion of

cross-border connections. Projects such as the Brenner Base Tunnel will significantly improve the connection between Italy and Central Europe. New night train connections, such as the planned Berlin-Rome route from 2025, will also strengthen European rail traffic. Digitalisation plays a key role in the modernisation of the Italian rail system. The introduction of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) will increase the interoperability and efficiency of the network. Italy's railway industry is innovative, particularly in the field of high-speed trains such as the Frecciarossa. These technologies can serve as a model for other European countries.

The challenges of the climate crisis and the need for sustainable mobility offer enormous opportunities for the rail sector. Italy and Germany can learn from each other by cooperating and exchanging experiences and working together on the future of European rail transport. As the most important Italian professional association in the railway sector, CIFI Servizi Srl, a subsidiary of the renowned Collegio degli Ingegneri Ferroviari Italiani (CIFI), founded in 2022, will contribute valuable expertise and networks to **iaf** 2025.

HOTELKONTINGENT

Fortunately, the hotel capacities in and around Münster have been expanded again since the last **iaf**. If you need hotel rooms, please contact the City of Münster accommodation service in good time.

Service phone: +49 (0)251 492 27 26
E-Mail: tourismus@stadt-muenster.de
Internet: www.tourismus.muenster.de



PRESS

Please direct press enquiries to
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Press spokesperson: Regina Iglauer-Sander

You can also find all important information at
www.iaf-messe.com/en

NEWSLETTER

Would you like to be kept up to date? Then sign up for our newsletter at www.iaf-messe.com/en/newsletter.



We regularly inform you about news about the trade fair and exhibitors present their highlights.

OPENING HOURS

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WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Our competent team is at your disposal for all concerns and questions and will be happy to help you.



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REGISTRATION & FURTHER INFORMATION

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