**News Release**

1 June 2018

**RECORD INTERNATIONAL ATTENDANCE CEMENTS**

**FESPA AS LEADING GLOBAL EXPO FOR SPECIALITY PRINT**

*Largest ever audience for four-day FESPA event, with over 20000 individual visitors*

FESPA Global Print Expo 2018 (Messe Berlin, 15 to 18 May) reinforced its standing as the global landmark event for speciality printers, with visitors from a record 142 countries gravitating to the German capital for the four-day show.

Following the 2017 shift to an annual event cycle and the decision to amalgamate the flagship show with its FESPA Digital ‘spin-off’, FESPA 2018 also attracted the largest number of visitors ever for a four-day FESPA show, with 20,442 individual visitors to FESPA and the co-located European Sign Expo 2018. This represents a 22% increase on the number of individual visitors to FESPA Digital 2016 (Amsterdam), FESPA’s last four-day event.

Two-thirds of all visitors dedicated more than one day to the event to cover the ten exhibition halls and take advantage of the expanded content programme, including *European Sign Expo*, the *FESPA Trend Theatre*, an enlarged *Printeriors* showcase, the new *Print Make Wear* garment production feature, and the first-ever *Digital Corrugated Experience* for packaging and point-of-sale. These repeat visits brought total event attendance at FESPA 2018 Global Print Expo to 33,799.

Germany delivered the largest percentage of visitors overall, with 26% of the total audience coming from the host country. After Germany, the top ten countries in terms of visitor attendance were the United Kingdom, Poland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, France, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Belgium and Sweden. The high number of Polish visitors in particular reflected the accessibility of Berlin for printers from across the border.

The dominant area of visitor interest according to the event registration data was digital printing, which was the key focus for 44% of all visitors. FESPA’s sustained coverage of innovations in textile printing was reflected in the fact that one in three 2018 visitors indicated an interest in textile and fabric printing. Commercial print, finishing, design to print, sublimation printing and industrial printing also featured particularly strongly among visitors’ priorities for the event.

The optimism of the market as a whole, as reported on site in the latest [FESPA Print Census](https://www.fespa.com/en/news-media/press-releases/2018-print-census-reveals-strategic-responses-to-escalating-demand), was evident in the energetic mood throughout the exhibition halls. Exhibitors across the show reported excellent business and strong interest from print service providers in technology and consumables innovations to drive greater productivity and applications diversity*.*

FESPA Exhibitions Director Roz Guarnori comments: “FESPA 2018 Global Print Expo was a vibrant, action-packed event that absolutely surpassed even our own expectations, from the energy and appetite for innovation among our diverse visitor audience, to the incredible range of new products brought to market by our exhibitors. Our own research and the electric mood of the show reinforce our confidence that speciality print and signage are sectors that never stop inventing, exploring, pushing boundaries and looking for new ways to achieve growth.”

She continues, “When we announced the change to an annual four-day FESPA event cycle, we fully expected to see some ‘levelling off’ of attendance between the historical flagship FESPA event and the four-day Digital event. Against these expectations, we’re absolutely thrilled to have welcomed just as many visitors as we did over five days in Hamburg in 2017, and to have exceeded typical attendance at a FESPA Digital show by over a fifth. With 35% of visitors having final decision-making responsibility in their businesses, and the same proportion of the audience coming primarily to research or purchase new equipment, it’s clear that FESPA is viewed all over the world as a leading showcase of latest technology for digital, screen and textile print, and a vital event in informing critical investment decisions.”

The next FESPA Global Print Expo takes place at Messe Munich, Germany, from 14 to 17 May 2019. FESPA has also confirmed the [location and dates of the 2020 edition](https://www.fespa.com/en/news-media/press-releases/fespa-announces-southern-european-location-for-fespa-global-print-expo-2020) as 24-27 March 2020, Madrid, Spain.

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**About FESPA**

Founded in 1962, FESPA is a global federation of Associations for the screen printing, digital printing and textile printing community. FESPA’s dual aim is to promote screen printing and digital imaging and to share knowledge about screen and digital printing with its members across the world, helping them to grow their businesses and learn about the latest developments in their fast-growing industries.

**FESPA Profit for Purpose**   
The shareholders are the industry. FESPA has invested millions of Euros into the global printing community over the last seven years, supporting the growth of the market. For more information visit [www.fespa.com](http://www.fespa.com)

**FESPA Print Census**

The FESPA Print Census is a global research project to understand the wide format, screen and digital print community. It is the largest data gathering project of its kind.

**Forthcoming FESPA events include:**

* FESPA Africa, 12-14 September 2018, Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa
* FESPA Mexico, 20-22 September 2018, Centro Citibanamex, Mexico City, Mexico
* FESPA Eurasia, 6-9 December 2018, CNR Expo, Istanbul, Turkey
* FESPA Brasil, 20-23 March 2019, Expo Center Norte, São Paulo, Brazil
* FESPA Global Print Expo, 14-17 May 2019, Messe München, Munich, Germany
* European Sign Expo, 14-17 May 2019, Messe München, Munich, Germany

**Issued on behalf of FESPA by AD Communications**

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