

THE MANUFACTURING CONGRESS: THE MEETING POINT OF ADVANCED INDUSTRY IN SAN SEBASTIAN

- *The National Advanced and Digital Manufacturing Congress will bring together around 450 attendees to address the hottest topics for the future of the industry.*

San Sebastian, 18 October 2023. - The 23rd edition of the Advanced Manufacturing and Machine Tool Congress is set to take place from 25 to 27 October 2023 in the Gipuzkoa Science and Technology Park in San Sebastian. The congress, organised by AFM Cluster and held every two years since 1976, is the leading forum of knowledge and experience exchange for advanced manufacturing sector businesses.

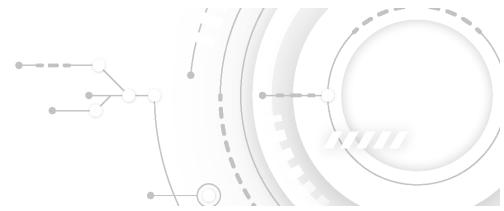
Over the last three years, the sector has had to deal with a series of events that have directly affected demand for production equipment and machine tools. However, despite the situation of uncertainty and instability, since the second half of 2020, demand has remained reasonably high thanks to production needs, transformation processes in some sectors, and also thanks to the unfolding of certain supply chains affected by the geopolitical situation. Throughout this year, this has been the prevailing theme despite the significant increase in financing costs.

At present, despite considerable uncertainty and a slowing down of demand, the sector's companies are, in general terms, holding strong, maintaining a good level of occupancy and with sufficient order portfolios to guarantee activity for a good portion of the coming year. As we await the results of the final stretch of 2023, particularly how some of the key markets for our businesses will evolve, such as Germany, China and the US, we already expect turnover to close out the year positively, up almost 5% on the 2022 year-end figure.

In this unsure yet highly active context, the 23 CMH, which is a benchmark event in the field of advanced and digital manufacturing, will be the meeting point for a broad audience of sector professionals. On one hand, the informative congress will be targeted at senior management and technical staff. This programme will give them the opportunity to get to know the main trends in different fields affecting the world of advanced manufacturing: the multi-dimensional vision of the factory of the future, the technologies and disruptive applications of digitalisation, machine tools, additive manufacturing, robotics and automation, sustainability or attracting talent to the industry, among other topics.

On the other hand, the scientific-technical congress will offer presentations of the results and potential applications of several R&D&i projects being run by technology centres,





universities and businesses; geared towards the most technical target audience, eager to ascertain specific details on complex problem solving.

The 23CMH double-bill programme expands to feature the new safety congress in 2023, offering a wide range of debates and presentations, round tables and B2B gatherings, aimed at promoting networking and creating new collaboration opportunities between the 450 participants expected to attend.

This year we will be joined by top companies such as Microsoft, Telefónica, Cipherbit, Siemens, IBM, Renishaw, Aernnova, Gestamp, Petronor, Renfe, Fagor Automation, Tecnalia, Danobatgroup and Airbus, to name but a few.

The congress is supported by the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment of the Basque Country and the SPRI Group.

Security congress

As a new feature this year, on the second day of the advanced and digital manufacturing congress, a machinery safety congress will be held alongside the other events, aimed at professionals seeking guaranteed conscientious compliance of prevailing regulations in terms of equipment and production plant safety.

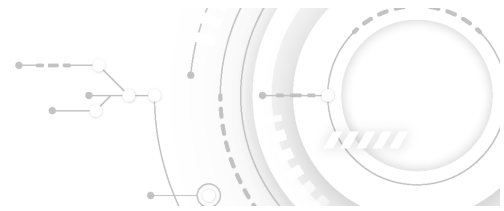
The main topics addressed will be, on one hand, the legal and regulatory aspects and new legislative aspects within the framework of industrial equipment safety and, on the other hand, all matters relating to new solutions, with a specific focus on cybersecurity for robots and a third block presenting case studies applied in the industry.

Opening and closing ceremonies

The opening session on 25 October will be presided by the President of the Basque Government, Iñigo Urkullu, and participants will include prestigious journalist and communicator Iñaki Gabilondo and renowned scientist Pedro Miguel Etxenike, who will share a conversation on the challenges posed by technological advancements for present and future society.

The closing ceremony, to be held on 27 October, will include the awards presentation: one prize for the best project presented by a company; another for the best communication presented by a technical-scientific community; a third for the best technical college thesis; and a fourth for the best presentation made in Basque.





UPCOMING EVENTS

25-27 OCTOBER 2023: 23RD ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND MACHINE-TOOL CONFERENCE, San Sebastian

23 NOVEMBER 2023: SMART PO DAY, San Sebastián

3-7 JUNE 2024: 32 BIEMH, INTERNATIONAL MACHINE-TOOL EXHIBITION, Bilbao

For further information, please contact the Director of the Communication Department, María Ruiz-Lopetedi (maria.rlopetedi@afm.es), phone numbers 943 309 009 / 679 979 083.

PRESS RELEASE 11/23

ABOUT AFM CLUSTER

AFM CLUSTER is the organisation that represents Advanced and Digital manufacturing in Spain. AFM comprises seven industrial associations, through which it represents over 750 companies, which employ 17,000 people and have a joint turnover of 3.8 billion euros. From its headquarters in San Sebastian, and its plant in Tianjin (China), AFM CLUSTER works to promote internationalisation, industrial development, strategic positioning and upskilling in its associated companies. The seven associations comprising AFM Cluster are as follows:

- Machine-tool and advanced manufacturing technologies. **AFM** is the founding association, which gives its name to the CLUSTER. With 77 years of experience, it has 126 members.
- Additive Manufacturing and 3D Printing. **ADDIMAT** brings together 105 companies operating in this new sector, destined to be a relevant part in many industrial sectors, such as, for example, the aerospace, biomedical and automotive sectors.
- Hand Tools, Hardware and Industrial Supply. **ESKUIN** represents 20 companies that manufacture hand tools to the highest standards of quality and safety.
- Machining and Metal-Mechanical Transformation. With 195 member companies, **AFMEC** aims to bring visibility and services to one of the most important industrial groups in Spain.
- Technology-based companies and startups. **UPTEK** represents 151 technological companies and startups dedicated to advanced and digital manufacturing.
- Companies offering smart tech for advanced manufacturing. **STECH** groups together **126** businesses to form a collective with specific offerings in smart tech for manufacturing.
- Machine tool importers. **AIMHE** groups 53 companies with the mission to represent the interests of the machine tool importing and distributing sector.

AFM CLUSTER is also partnered with over 100 industry services companies. AFM CLUSTER forms part of different international associations, such as CECIMO, ECTA or CEO, it is the co-organiser, along with BEC -Bilbao Exhibition Centre-, of the international fairs BIEMH, ADDIT3D, WORKINN and BEDIGITAL and it actively collaborates in the fairs + INDUSTRY and SUBCONTRATACIÓN. It is a co-organiser of CMH - Congress on Advanced and Digital Manufacturing and Machine Tools.

