



NR.17 10/2006

BAU 2007: European congress on energy-efficient building

As part of BAU 2007 Germany's Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung) is putting on a European congress on the subject of energy-efficient building, on 15 and 16 January 2007. The congress will take a look at the regulatory environment and government support initiatives from a European perspective. Other emphases will be knowledge transfer and the latest technology.

For central heating, hot water and lighting alone, buildings in Germany account for over 35% of total energy consumption. In view of the fact that energy prices for the key fuels of oil and gas have almost doubled over the last ten years, this represents a considerable cost factor in the economy as a whole and for private households. Residential and non-residential construction will have to face up to these challenges.

Still high on the agenda for the building industry are the implementation of the EU directive on the energy performance of buildings, and in particular the introduction of the Energy Passport. In the case of non-residential building that means optimising heating energy consumption and exploiting as yet untapped potential for energy saving on lighting and air-conditioning. The energy standards applying to buildings must be adapted in line with the rapidly rising energy prices. What's required are further regulatory measures, changes to the system of grants and funding, and good, well publicised examples of best practice.

Germany's Minister of Construction, Wolfgang Tiefensee, will open the congress with a keynote speech. Also invited is European Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs. He will report on relevant measures being taken by the EU (Green Book, Action Plan for Energy Efficiency).

In the conference programme representatives of government ministries and research bodies will be outlining the methods of the new energy-saving directive and discussing ideas for extending the requirements later. The introduction of a Germany-wide Energy Passport for buildings and the technical implications of this will be explained. Also outlined, in addition to new approaches in evaluating air-conditioning systems and lighting, will be a range of best-practice energy-saving projects. In particular these examples will include existing houses that have been converted into low-energy houses, and administration buildings and local-authority facilities, e.g. schools, which demonstrate excellent energy solutions.

The congress also focuses on modern building concepts, the integration of buildings technology and the use of new materials and techniques such as vacuum insulation/vacuum glazing and adaptive, selective and switchable materials. A look at superinsulated passive-energy houses will present a vision for the future.

All the lectures will be given by renowned experts in the field. A detailed programme can be downloaded from 1 November 2006 from the following web addresses:

www.zukunft-haus.info
www.bau-muenchen.de

The venue for the congress is the auditorium (Hall 1) of the International Congress Center (ICM) at the New Munich Trade Fair Centre.

The congress programme is being accompanied by a special 3,500 square-metre display entitled 'Marketplace – Renovations and Modernisation', to be held in the adjacent exhibition hall B0. Featured here each day will be seminars and workshops on the themes of buildings analysis,

designing for the handicapped, identifying and eradicating faults, energy-efficient building, sustainable quality, regulations and legislation as regards modernisation, and finance and government grants. The German Ministry of Transport, the KfW-Förderbank (bank for reconstruction and development) and the Deutsche Energie-Agentur (dena) will be presenting programmes, model projects in Germany, information on grants and funding, and initiatives across Europe. Within the display a special 'Research Mile' will feature innovations, research ideas and results and details of public funding. A research initiative called 'Forschungsinitiative Zukunft Bau' will be using this platform to stage its first presentation of its goals and functions.

Further information:

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Congress fee (date of payment and registration):
up to 22.12.2006: 85 € incl. VAT.
from 23.12.2006: 98 € incl. VAT.

Included in the congress fee:

participation in the congress, including 'Bavarian Evening', food and drink,
extensive congress documentation,
free entry to BAU 2007 on 15 and 16 January 2007,
free use of all public transport (MVV) in the city, across the entire tariff area on 15 and
16.01.07

BAU

BAU is Europe's leading trade fair for building materials used in industrial, commercial and residential construction, and interiors. It is the leading event in the European building industry

calendar. Every two years, market leaders converge on this unique showcase which covers all segments of the building materials sector. The range of products and services on display is set out according to type of building material, but also product and theme area. BAU serves the needs of planners, architects and project developers as well as the building trades, construction companies and the building materials trade. At BAU 2007, which takes place from 15 to 20 January 2007 at the New Munich Trade Fair Centre in Munich, Germany, some 2,000 exhibitors from around 40 countries are expected to take part. The focal themes in 2007 will be intelligent facades, renovations and modernisation, energy-efficient construction, building automation and function and design.

This press release is also available on the Internet, at www.bau-muenchen.com

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