

THE Manufacturer

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LEAD INTERVIEW

Vikas Butaney

Cisco's Senior Director of Product Management for IoT Platforms

SPECIAL FEATURE

Michelin man

TIM meets John Reid, the man who saved the firm's Dundee plant

MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

Power drive

The muscle behind the success of Vantage Power

Connection speed

TIM

The Industrial Internet of Things is changing manufacturing at lightning speed: it's just a matter of connecting the dots

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IMHX 2016 preview

Taking place from September 13-16 at the NEC Birmingham, IMHX 2016 will welcome more than 20,000 supply chain professionals to evaluate cutting edge technologies, explore the latest industry solutions and discuss how to increase efficiencies within supply chain operations. TM provides a snapshot of what to expect.

Sponsored by financial services provider Investec, this free-to-attend event will feature more than 400 exhibitors in the ultimate materials handling supermarket, connecting buyers with suppliers – with all the latest products and services on show.

Logistics is a vitally important industry. Worth more than £93 bn to the UK economy, it employs one in 12 of the working population – some 2.3 million people across 196,000 companies – and is set to go from strength to strength as the UK's economy further recovers and e-commerce experiences even greater growth.

According to figures from IMRG, in 2013 UK shoppers spent £91 bn online, with an anticipated spend of £107 bn in 2014, a predicted year-on-year growth of 17%. As internet retailing continues to grow, supply chain operators face even greater pressure as customers demand faster delivery times – and of course need a connected supply chain that can also handle returns quickly.

In response to this growth, for the first time, IMHX 2016 will feature a dedicated Supply Chain IT Village, where providers will be on hand to help visitors meet these challenges – and discover the latest e-commerce solutions.

The last IMHX in 2013, which was attended by more than 19,500 visitors, saw 77% of attendees stating that visiting IMHX would influence their buying decisions – and £94 m worth of orders can be attributed to buyers visiting the show.

Covering 30,000 square metres, approximately the area of four Wembley pitches, IMHX is the largest show of its

kind in the UK and the only event where visitors can view a substantial number of live and dynamic demonstrations.

Rob Fisher, director of Informa Exhibitions' Materials Handling Group explained "Despite the rise in digital communications, some might say because of it, face-to-face communication and interaction in business has rarely been more important.

"Research has found that 80% of those interviewed agree that live events deliver a better return on investment than other media – making IMHX a must-attend event."

After its successful debut in 2013, 2016 sees the return of the seminar programme, featuring leading speakers from the world of logistics, providing the ultimate networking and ideas exchange. IMHX 2016 will also feature pavilions from AMHSA (Automated Handling Systems Association) and the UKWA (United Kingdom Warehousing Association) as

well as the regional heats of the RTITB "Operator of the year" competition, and the Design 4 Safety Awards.

"We are experiencing unprecedented levels of bookings with the majority of the sector's key players committed to IMHX 2016. We have already allocated more than 70% of the available floor space, which is remarkable given that we are still more than 20 months away from the show", said Rob Fisher.

"IMHX is attended by high quality decision makers with real purchasing power, alongside the absolute leaders in supply chain management and intralogistics that will showcase their latest solutions and cutting edge technology. This is where business happens, and the plans for IMHX 2016 are gathering real momentum," he concluded.



IMHX 2016: a glance at the exhibitors

KNAPP leads the way in automation at IMHX

At IMHX, KNAPP will demonstrate how its latest innovations in logistics automation boost flexibility and accuracy in production and distribution environments. KNAPP's exhibit on stand U85 in hall 12 will embody its mantra of 'making complexity simple'. The group - headquartered in Austria - has more than 1,600 installations worldwide in the field of intralogistics automation and software. KNAPP specialises in the core business sectors of industry, pharma, fashion, retail and food retail and supports famous brands worldwide through its network of 30 subsidiaries. Clients in the UK include British Gas, John Lewis, M&S, Boots, Staples, Clarks and Well, all of which have resident service teams. As well as its solutions for automated material handling - focused on its OSR Shuttle automatic storage and retrieval system combined with ergonomically designed order picking workstations - KNAPP is also a provider of garment-handling solutions based on overhead conveying technology through its subsidiary, Dürkopp Fördertechnik.

www.knapp.com

its product offering of electric powered vehicles. ePowerTrucks prides itself on the overall customer experience and strives to maintain the stringent standards it sets for itself. ePowerTrucks can provide long and short term rental as well as outright purchase and leasing.

www.epowertrucks.co.uk



SEC Storage to exhibit

SEC Storage has confirmed it will be exhibiting at the internationally renowned materials handling show on the UKWA Pavilion, stand UK6. With an eight-year break in exhibiting, the firm sees IMHX as the right opportunity to showcase its solutions. SEC Storage will demonstrate how it has made a tangible difference to its clients warehouse storage operations. From increasing capacity, to maximising the cube and making operations more efficient with automation. Find SEC Storage on UK6 in the UKWA Pavilion in Hall 9. Fancy a break? Come and have a chat with SEC Storage. There is an exclusive café right within the UKWA Pavilion so you can talk warehouse storage solutions over a coffee.

www.sec-online.co.uk/warehouse-storage-solutions



ePowerTrucks appearing at IMHX

See ePowertrucks' demonstration on stand 8B30, where it will showcase a wide range of electric tow tractors, pedestrian tugs, road legal electric vehicles and electric utility vehicles. ePowerTrucks is the electric vehicle division of Lift Safe Ltd. Established in 2000, it specialises in the sales, repair and service of electric trucks, electric vehicles, electric tugs and a wide range of electric utility vehicles. The firm has grown from year to year and has consistently improved