

Speech by Mayor Jürgen Roters at the evening dinner on the occasion of IDS on 3 September 2015, 19:00, KölnSKY, Ottoplatz 1, 27th floor

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Mayor of the City of Cologne and Chairman of Koelnmesse, I am happy to welcome you to this traditional evening dinner in advance of IDS 2015, the 36th International Dental Show here in Cologne.

You have all looked forward to the International Dental Show in recent months with great anticipation. In the coming days, the dental world will once again showcase itself in our city and demonstrate its innovative force and strength.

Your industry also has chosen to make Cologne their "capital" all year round. Not only the VDDI, the Association of German Dental Manufacturers, has its headquarters here in the city; but the European Federation, FIDE, as well resides in Cologne.

Consequently, our city plays host to the IDS, the world's largest and most important dental trade fair - organised by the GFDI, the commercial enterprise of the VDDI, and carried out by Koelnmesse. This longstanding successful cooperation is a guarantor for quality and reliability. On behalf of all of you, my thanks and a particularly warm welcome go to Dr. Martin Rickert, Chairman of the VDDI, and Dr. Markus Heibach, Chief Financial Officer of the VDDI.

I also extend a warm welcome to the representatives of the dental industry's other organisations, both at home and abroad. You all make a decisive contribution to the success of the event.

The International Dental Show, ladies and gentlemen, keeps on reinventing itself again and again. Science and technology are developing continuously and, accordingly, all areas of the entire dental industry as a significant economic factor.

Against this background, we can announce new records for this year as well: after 2013 already broke the 2,000 sound barrier in terms of number of exhibitors, the IDS announces renewed growth this year. When the exhibition halls open their doors tomorrow, about 2,200 companies from 56 countries will be ready to present their product innovations and services. More than 70 percent of exhibitors come from abroad. With this increase, IDS boasts more than 150,000 square metres of exhibition floor space for the first time in its 90-year history - This, too, is a new record!

In view of these many achievements, I am not surprised that the International Dental Show has for years been among the fastest growing events at the trade fair venue Cologne.

The growth and the high degree of internationalisation are also attributable to this trade fair concept. It puts the focus on business transactions and product information at the exhibitors' stands.

Other reasons for this positive development are the outstanding innovative strength and motivation of your industry. All of you are actively committed to patients' well-being for an improved, gentler and more advanced method of dental preservation and dental replacement. Last but not least, the organisational know-how and expertise of Koelnmesse, personalised service and the locational advantages of the city of Cologne at the economic centre of the Rhine-Ruhr region, all contribute to the dynamic development of IDS.

Cologne can be really proud to be home to one of the most attractive trade fairs in the country!

All of which makes us confident that we will reach a new record in terms of numbers of visitors this year.

Ladies and gentlemen, to kick off the IDS, I wish you a pleasant evening with interesting conversations and discussions, as well as a successful fair.

Even if your stay in Cologne is primarily focused on the trade fair business, I do hope that you will still find a few opportunities away from the bustle of the trade fair to enjoy the flair and cultural offerings of our city.