

## **14<sup>th</sup> KWF Summit closed on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2004 after four days – exhibitors and visitors expressed their great satisfaction – the branch used its potential for rationalisation**

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The 14<sup>th</sup> KWF Summit – “Process-orientated Forestry - new technologies, new partnerships, new thinking” – closed with an outstanding attendance after four days on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Exhibitors and visitors stated their appreciation of content, programme and results as well as organisation and hospitality of the region that hosted Europe’s greatest event in forestry this year.

The basic structure of the Summit, in which the Forest Machinery and Innovations Demo-Fair as the comprehensive “fair in the forest for forest technology and forestry” is being supplemented by In-field Demonstrations and a Conference, has proven successful once again. Independent experts demonstrated various processes during the In-field Demonstration while the urgent strategic questions of the branch could be discussed at the Conference. By this organisational approach the branch has found a stage for all players from industry, science, associations and practice to meet.

The topic of “process-orientation” has been a good choice since it is, according to all experts, the key to a flourishing future of forestry. With regard to process-orientation forestry can look upon the positive experience of other branches and eventually optimise the interfaces of the resource wood on its way from the forest to the customer.

The festive opening ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> June and the subsequent plenary of the Conference had an excellent attendance, which showed the political and societal relevance of the forest, forestry and the renewable resource wood as well as the international interweavement of forestry and forest technology. The workshops and fora, with exiting and productive discussion that did not exclude any critical question, were met with equally great interest.

The KWF as the organiser succeeded in mobilising not only the traditional visitors from the management level of forestry administrations and companies but also gained access to new target groups within the framework of the Forest Employees’ Day and the Forest Entrepreneurs’ Day. The same holds true for international participation. In addition to the traditionally strong representation of German-speaking and Scandinavian visitors, many interested visitors came from the new Eastern European member states of the EU. The largest delegations came from Poland and the Czech Republic.

The patroness of the Summit, Federal Minister Renate Künast, had to cancel her visit at short notice. However, Professor Dr. Hermann Schlagheck, as department head responsible for forestry in the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture acted in place of her.

The international interweavement and cooperation were mirrored in the participation and greetings by the General Director of the Department of Forestry in the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr. Aarne Reunala, and the General Director of the Polish State Forests, Dr. Janusz Dawidziuk.

Some facts about the KWF Summit:

- 410 exhibitors from 16 countries, among them renowned companies of the forestry and transport branches
- Exhibition area and in-field demonstration along a 4 km round-course in the forest, large exhibition tent, 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> outdoor area (total exhibition area more than 90,000 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Total attendance 35,200, with this attendance the record numbers of the KWF Summit in Celle in 2000 have been exceeded by now already.
- Expert delegations from 24 countries, more than 100 accredited journalists from 11 countries, TV coverage by nationwide media stations
- Attractive stands, which fitted neatly into the beautiful backdrop of the forest; real-to-life operations of machinery and equipment in the forest further improved the concept advanced by the network "Forestry Demo Fairs", of which KWF is a member
- 4 special shows and in-field demonstration of 25 complete work chains from all sectors of forest production and harvesting
- Out of 74 registered novelties, 6 novelties have been awarded the KWF-Innovations Medal; the awarding ceremony was conducted by the Karl-Winfried Seif, Under-Secretary in the Hessian Ministry for Environment, Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection
- The Used Machinery Park "Elmia/KWF Loggers Meet", organised by Elmia AB, has been a great success due to more than 50 forest machines on offer and many interested buyers
- German and European Forwarder Championships, Stihl-Timbersports Series 2004 with show and training camp and KWF-Cup
- Great visitor interest in special events such as Timbershow, Official Reception, KWF-Social Evening, "Lumbermen's Party" and Swedish Evening
- Shuttle service on both In-field Demonstrations courses by 70 busses; delays and waiting times that occurred on the first day due to unexpectedly high numbers of visitors have been eliminated by organisational changes, parking place for more than 4,000 cars and 50 coaches; shuttle service from railway station to fairground; procurement of more than 4,000 rooms.
- Regional integration of the Summit (for instance through the special show "Forestry – yesterday and today" on the Groß-Umstadt market place)
- Attempted world record "the world's longest bench" (Guinness Book of Records)

To see pictures of the Summit log on to [www.kwf-tagung.de](http://www.kwf-tagung.de)