

**13 – 15 Oct. 2026**  
**Cologne trade fair**



**HK 2026**  
HeatTreatmentCongress



**82nd HeatTreatmentCongress**  
**31st IFHTSE-World Congress**  
**European Conference on Heat Treatment (ECHT)**  
**4th Conference Steel Innovation**

**[www.hk-awt.de](http://www.hk-awt.de)**

## Call for papers

Dear Esteemed Colleagues, Researchers, Industry Leaders, and Innovators,

It is with immense pleasure and a truly warm welcome that we invite you to four conferences at a glance: 31st IFHTSE-World Congress, European Conference on Heat Treatment, Heat Treatment Congress, and Steel Innovation, to be held in the vibrant and historic city of Cologne, Germany, in October 2026.

This conference has been carefully designed to be the world's leading gathering for professionals dedicated to advancing the critical fields of materials, heat treatment, and surface engineering. In an era where material performance is paramount to technological progress, the need for robust, innovative, digital, and sustainable solutions has never been greater.

We invite you to join us in Cologne and explore the forefront of scientific discovery and industrial innovation. This exceptional event provides an outstanding platform for the exchange of cutting-edge research, groundbreaking developments, and practical applications that are shaping the future of our industry. From fundamental metallurgical insights to revolutionary process technologies, our program will encompass a broad spectrum of topics reflecting the dynamic nature of heat treatment and surface engineering.



Ph.D. Lesley Frame  
(IFHTSE Vice President)



Dr. Thomas Waldenmaier  
(AWT Chairman)

We cordially invite you to contribute to this prestigious event by submitting your research and findings. Your active participation will be instrumental in making the conferences a truly impactful and memorable experience. The congress is planned as a three-day event, with English as the conference language.

Abstracts of up to 1,800 characters (including spaces), along with your photo, should be submitted via the webform at the website [www.hk-awt.de](http://www.hk-awt.de). Please note that only English abstracts can be accepted.

**Abstract Deadline: 15 March 2026**

**Notification of abstract acceptance: 15 May 2026 Preliminary Program: 30 May 2026**

**Deadline for proceedings manuscript (extended abstract): 15 July 2026**

We eagerly anticipate welcoming you to Cologne in October 2026, where together, we will forge new pathways for innovation and collaboration. The main topics of the various conferences are:

### **31st IFHTSE-World Congress, ECHT, HeatTreatmentCongress (HK)**

- Heat treatment – processes, systems, media, safety
- Sustainability concepts for heat treatment plants and process chains
- Artificial intelligence, simulation and digitalization
- Production and processing of components in the process chain
- Properties of components in processing
- New material developments
- Material characterization and quality control

## Steel Innovation

- Materials Engineering steel
- Digital steel technology
- High strength and wear-resistant steels
- Sustainable steel - recycling, re-use and re-manufacturing
- Corrosion-resistant steels
- Hydrogen embrittlement /steel development for the hydrogen economy
- Materials testing for steel
- Increasing the damage tolerance of steels
- New steel concepts for additive manufacturing

## Chair

Dr. Lesley Frame (University of Connecticut, Vice President of IFHTSE, USA)

Dr. Thomas Waldenmaier (Robert Bosch GmbH, Chairman of AWT, Germany)

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Bernhard Vandewiele (General manager at BVDW consultancy, Belgium)

Filip Vráblík (ECOSOND s.r.o., President of ATZK, Czech Republic/Slovakia)

Prof. Mufu Yan (Harbin Institute of Technology, Executive



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Dr. Stefan Hock (Secretary General of IFHTSE)

## Cross-industry Global Highlight!

In addition to the extensive scientific and technical program, attendees will have the unique opportunity to experience a major international exhibition and trade fair.

Leading companies from around the world will present their latest developments in equipment, services, operating materials and other relevant technologies that are essential for the heat treatment and surface engineering industries. The exhibition will provide invaluable networking opportunities and a chance to discover new solutions while fostering collaborations between academia and industry. Special offers for complete stands and for newcomers can also be found on the website.

Congress tickets include exhibition admission. Tickets only for the exhibition admission can be purchased separately. The ticket shop will be available from the beginning of June 2026 on the website [www.hk-awt.de](http://www.hk-awt.de).

Questions about the event will be answered by the AWT-office. Phone +49 421 5229339, [info@awt-online.org](mailto:info@awt-online.org).

Questions about the exhibition booking will be answered by the exhibition office of F&E Technologiebroker Bremen GmbH, Phone +49 421 3972850, [contact@congressmanagement.info](mailto:contact@congressmanagement.info).

