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#fsb #bettertogehter

FSB 2025 consolidates its leading position as the international trade fair for sports, public space and leisure facilities

High-calibre, forward-looking conference programme, product innovations and double-digit percentage growth in visitor numbers confirm the sector's dynamism and its ability to master new challenges

From 28 to 31 October 2025, FSB, International Trade Fair for Public Space, Sports and Leisure Facilities, opened its doors once again in Cologne and presented the latest developments for the sports and leisure facilities of tomorrow. Accompanied by a high-calibre congress and event programme, the leading international trade fair showcased practical solutions for the challenges currently facing the industry. In total, 575 exhibitors from 44 countries representing the fields of public spaces, playground equipment, outdoor fitness, sports equipment, sports surfaces and stadium infrastructure participated in this year's edition. Together with its co-located event, aquanale, FSB attracted an audience of around 28,000 trade visitors from more than 125 nations. With its international orientation and the broad spectrum of its offerings, FSB once again set standards as the world's most important platform for local authorities, planners, centre operators, sports clubs and investors.

Covering around 70,000 square metres of exhibition space in Halls 9.1, 10.1 and 10.2 of the Cologne trade fair grounds, FSB 2025 continued its tradition of providing a comprehensive overview of products, services and technologies for designing public open spaces, sports centres and exercise facilities. The trade fair placed a special emphasis on sustainable materials, energy-efficient sports venues and playground areas, innovative outdoor fitness concepts and inclusive solutions. The audience of trade visitors was able to experience both conventional sports facilities and modern open-air solutions - from the padel court to the Inclusion Trail all the way through multifunctional active spaces for schools and local authorities.

Visitors gathered to try out product innovations, attend informative expert talks and take advantage of the diverse networking opportunities. The trade fair's two focus topics - inclusion and sustainability - attracted a high level of interest. These themes were represented at the majority of the trade fair stands, as well as being reflected in the event's programme for sector professionals.

"FSB 2025 demonstrated that active spaces for sports and exercise are much more than just infrastructure - they are part of a social movement that strives for a higher quality of life, greater participation and more sustainability. As the sector's leading



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international platform, FSB brings all the major actors who are actively shaping this future together every two years,” explained Matthias Pollmann, Vice President Trade Fair Management of Koelnmesse GmbH.

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“We’re delighted with the high levels of participation on both the national and the international scale and with the strong interest in FSB. This edition of the trade fair once again confirmed its position as the sector’s central platform for exchanges of ideas, innovation and inspiration,” said Bettina Frias, FSB’s director.

Diverse programme with congresses and forums

As in previous years, FSB’s programme featured numerous events, including congresses, forums and the award-giving ceremony for the IOC IAKS Architecture Prizes. The programme’s centrepiece was the **29th IAKS Congress**, hosted by the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS), which acts as FSB’s conceptual sponsor. The congress once again lived up to its reputation as the most important international forum for planning, building, financing and managing sports and leisure centres. Taking “Creating high-performing facilities for an active future” as their central theme, around 500 congress delegates from over 40 countries discussed new trends and solutions for sustainable sports infrastructure in expert talks and workshops. Hosted on all four days of the event, the congress included eleven sessions, as well as a hands-on workshop that presented innovative concepts and pioneering strategies that the sector can implement. Among the highlights were specialist talks on zero-energy sports and leisure facilities, reducing embodied carbon, and approaches for measuring the social return on investment from sports infrastructure.

In addition, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and IAKS presented the prestigious **IOC IAKS Architecture Prizes** at a festive gala event on the evening of 28 October 2025. The awards recognised nine outstanding projects for producing impressive sustainable, accessible and innovative sports and leisure facilities that clearly stood out among the international submissions. Two student projects were also honoured for their creative concepts that represent the future of sports architecture. To round off the event programme, there were networking opportunities and discussions with a high level of expert input, which participants from the fields of architecture, engineering and sports management valued particularly.

Another popular fixture at previous editions of the trade fair, the **planerFORUM**, returned and provided valuable insights into real-world projects, allowing architects, landscape planners and local authorities to benefit directly from best practices. Alongside the **bdla Day**, organised by the North Rhine-Westphalia branch of the Federation of German Landscape Architects, and the event programme staged by the **Federal Association of Playground Equipment and Leisure Facility Manufacturers (BSFH)**, Koelnmesse and the trade journal **Playground@Landscape** hosted a diverse range of additional forums. The talks in these forums addressed topics such as water in playground and public space planning, inclusive planning for spaces for play and active recreation, and school playgrounds as active spaces. In addition to these forums, 11 planning offices were represented at stands at the trade fair, where they had staff on hand to advise event visitors and discuss ideas.

Special event areas and exhibitor showcases: invitations to try out new concepts

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One of the additional highlights at FSB 2025 was the interactive special event areas, which invited visitors to experience first-hand the latest industry trends and topics. **SPORTNETZWERK.FSB** once again served as a gathering point for decision makers within local authorities, representatives from clubs and associations, sports centre operators and experts from the sports facilities industry. Alongside workshops and events, the Indoor Arena presented a fully equipped multifunctional court, a callisthenics station and live sessions on new exercise trends.

In addition, trade visitors were able to explore the concept of circularity in greater depth in the **NEW LIFE circular economy parkour area**. A range of floor coverings made from recycled materials were available to try out in one of many opportunities to experience the trade fair's central theme of sustainability interactively. Environmentally-conscious and long-lasting innovations in sports surfaces and artificial turf were also presented by other leading brands. In Hall 10, **Polytan** staged a joint showcase of the latest developments in sustainable sports surfaces together with **FormaTurf**, **SYNLawn** and **Melos**, and clearly demonstrated the potential of recyclable artificial turf systems to reduce environmental impact. **Regupol**'s stand gave visitors further opportunities to explore and admire environmentally friendly sports surfaces that boast long lifespans and outstanding functionality. With these impressive displays, both companies highlighted the event's focus topic of sustainability. But they also underscored the importance of new environmentally sensitive materials for the development of pioneering sports facilities.

Ice sports and their particular challenges in the context of sustainable design were also addressed at the trade fair - with opportunities to experience innovations. In Hall 9, trade visitors were impressed by a specially installed rink, where stunning ice-skating performances were staged. To accompany this display, stimulating contributions on sustainable solutions for ice sports centres and arenas were presented and debated in the congress. One notable discussion point was the talk "Sustainable ice rinks: carbon-neutral, cost-efficient and needs-based", which emphasised how innovative concepts can sustainably reduce energy consumption in sports facilities while simultaneously improving the user experience.

The **Urban Oasis special exhibition** brought the central theme of sustainability to life with a particularly outstanding showcase of innovative approaches for water-conscious urban development. Intelligent solutions such as green roofs, retention areas and permeable surfaces demonstrated how urban spaces can incorporate properties such as resistance to heat and heavy rain and be designed with a sustainable approach. These interdisciplinary concepts were presented interactively, thus helping to bring ideas for designing pioneering, environmentally friendly urban spaces to the attention of a wider audience.

Play and exercise - as an inclusive community

The importance of promoting active recreation was also highlighted in the Inclusion Area, a special event area located in the **STADTundRAUM** section in Hall 9 that was

devoted to the trade fair's second central theme of strengthening social inclusion. By entering and exploring this area, visitors could experience first-hand how key principles of inclusive playground and active space design can be implemented in planning practice. Guided tours presenting the area from the perspective of people with disabilities were also offered. These initiatives further underscored the importance of inclusive design for playgrounds and active spaces at the trade fair.

FHS Holztechnik addressed the topic of inclusive playgrounds at the trade fair, where the company presented its portfolio under the banner of **INKLUViSION**, a term it has coined and trademarked. The seven-metre-high play tower **Mikad**, which includes a wheelchair ramp leading to the **Wiggley** carousel, represents the tremendous importance of this topic. Visitors were also invited to try out a diverse range of sensory panels that appeal to all the senses. In addition, the company showcased the **Neheim Hollywood Bench** and the **Boomerang Bench**, two items of urban furniture that create places for social encounters and interaction.

stilum GmbH similarly underscored the need for inclusive and accessible design at its joint stand, where it appeared alongside **Conradi+Kaiser GmbH**. One of the key attractions was its grass paving grid, a surfacing element that enables safe and accessible movement in playgrounds, thereby combining movement, safety and sustainability. In addition to producing a near-natural design with its integrated turf chambers, this product provides fall protection up to a height of three metres. What's more, special, easily visible ground markers can guide users to inclusive play equipment.

HUCK Seiltechnik invited **Manfred Huck GmbH** and **SPOGG Sport Güter GmbH** to appear alongside it at its stand. Known as the manufacturer of **Hally-Gally** play equipment, **SPOGG Sport Güter's** product showcase featured the **Inclusion Mat**, which enables people with reduced mobility to move about safely and easily on substrates such as sand or turf. Also on display at the joint stand was a new item of play equipment, the **Balance Rocker 30**, which promotes movement and motor skills. Another highlight was the **Midi Cheops Pyramid**, a product that has been further developed with a view to accessibility and could be viewed on the **Boulevard North** at **FSB**.

Leading market players participate in the event

As in previous years, a large number of exhibitors from both Germany and abroad used the trade fair to showcase their product portfolios, options for inclusive playground construction and solutions for promoting exercise and environmental sustainability. A broad cross section of companies from the playground sector presented their offerings at the trade fair. They were joined by many professionals involved in the construction, maintenance and planning spaces for play and exercise who travelled to Cologne once again this year to gather comprehensive information. In addition to a clear overview of the latest developments, **FSB 2025** provided the sector with forums for intense discussions and targeted networking as well direct opportunities to lay the foundations for new contracts. Numerous market leaders

used the trade fair as a source of momentum for their business and showcased their solutions. Among them were ASB, Berliner Seilfabrik, Bodet, Casali, Conica, Condor Grass, Conradi & Kaiser, Edel Grass, Eibe ESF Emsland, ESTC, Eurotramp, Gammasport, Gill Athletics, Greenfields, Huck Seiltechnik, ISS Solar, Junckers, Kaiser & Kühne, KDF, Kraiburg, Melos, Omsi, Polytan, Regupol, Richter Spielgeräte, SMG, Sports & Leisure Group, Stockmeier, Ten Cate, Universalsport, Vinci Group, W.M. and Zamboni as well as many other representatives from the industry.

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Reactions from the sector

With its international orientation and in-depth coverage of a diverse array of topics, FSB further consolidated its position as the central international platform for all actors in the field of sports and public space design. The positive response to the event from exhibitors and partners reflects the trade fair's immensely important role within the industry.

"FSB is the international gathering place for all those involved in providing opportunities for sport and active leisure - in every sense. Here, sustainability isn't just discussed - it's actually put into practice," said **Klaus Meinel, secretary general of IAKS (International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities)**.

"Once again, FSB 2025 was the central gathering for our industry - full of inspiring conversations, exciting projects and a strong sense of community. We're delighted that we were able to present our brands Polytan, Melos, FormaTurf and SYNLawn and use them to demonstrate how versatile and sustainable modern sports grounds and recreational spaces can be today. The face-to-face exchanges of ideas were incredibly valuable - and we're already looking ahead to FSB 2027 with great excitement," said **Tobias Müller, director of marketing and communication, Polytan GmbH**.

"FSB 2025 was a hugely successful trade fair - the atmosphere in Hall 9 was outstanding, the audience was interested in our portfolio, and the conversations were at a high level of sector expertise. Clearly separating German manufacturers from international suppliers gave the trade fair experience structure and made networking easier. FSB shows that our sector goes far beyond a mere showcase of products - it is a platform for content, exchanges of ideas and future questions concerning play and spatial design. For 2027, I'd like the trade fair team to maintain the same bold approach and place even more emphasis on joint showcases with truly inspiring content," said **Birthe Mallach-Mlynczak, strategic director and art director, ESF Emsland Spiel- und Freizeitgeräte GmbH & Co. KG**.

More reactions from the sector can be found on the FSB website: [Statements about FSB | FSB](#)

#bettertogether: powerful synergies with aquanale

As is now customary, FSB was again held in co-location with **aquanale - International Trade Fair for Sauna. Pool. Ambience.** this year. The two events came together to form a strong, international dual trade fair brand in Cologne. United by the shared motto **#bettertogether**, FSB and aquanale created a platform that highlighted synergies, revealed areas of common ground and brought together

the topics of exercise, leisure, health and well-being. This was evident to visitors to Boulevard North, for example, where the joint special exhibition area Urban Oasis vs. Private Oasis explored the close interconnection between public space and pool planning, taking water as an example. As the only combined trade fair event of its kind anywhere in the world, the FSB and aquanale duo will continue to unite the challenges and visions of both industries in Cologne.

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FSB 2025 in figures

More than 575 exhibitors from 44 countries participated in FSB 2025, with approximately 80 per cent of them travelling from outside Germany to appear at the event. Together, the co-located events FSB and aquanale welcomed around 28,000 trade visitors from over 125 nations, which corresponds to an 11 per cent rise in visitor numbers compared to 2023. International visitors accounted for over 62 per cent of the audience.

The next edition of FSB will take place in Cologne from 26 to 29 October 2027.

Koelnmesse - Global Inspiration for Living, Contract and Public Spaces

Koelnmesse is the world's top trade fair organiser for the areas of Living, Contract and Public Spaces. Alongside the trade fair duo imm cologne and idd cologne (interior design days cologne), other formats hosted at the trade fair hub of Cologne such as ORGATEC, interzum, FSB, spoga+gafa and aquanale are among the most internationally renowned and established industry gatherings. These fairs comprehensively represent the interior and design segment, the furniture and interior construction industries' supplying sections, the kitchen world, all topics for the modern working world, garden lifestyle as well as modern work environments, the garden lifestyle, public spaces, sports and leisure facilities, along with saunas, pools and wellness centres.

Beyond that, Koelnmesse is strategically expanding its portfolio in international growth markets. The imm brand family now includes imm india and La Feria De Diseño Medellín - powered by imm cologne in Colombia. The ORGATEC brand has established a global footprint with ORGATEC Tokyo, ORGATEC India, and ORGATEC WORKSPACE Saudi Arabia. The international presence of the interzum brand extends to interzum guangzhou, interzum bogota, interzum jakarta, and the interzum forum italy. The FSB brand is also internationally active, with the FSB Sports Show Riyadh and the FSB Forum Italy in Bergamo.

The next events:

imm cologne - The interior business event, Cologne 20.01. - 23.01.2026

imm india - The Business Platform for Furniture and Interiors in India, New Delhi 11.03. - 14.03.2026

interzum guangzhou - Asia's Most Comprehensive Woodworking and Upholstery Machinery, Furniture Production and Interior Décor Trade Fair, Guangzhou 28.03. - 31.03.2026

Note for editorial offices:

Image material from FSB and aquanale is available in our online image database at www.fsb-cologne.com/imagetdatabase and <https://www.aquanale.com/press/multimedia/image-database/>

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