

The unique ENERGETAB®2020 fair is behind us

From 15 to 17 September, the international energy fair ENERGETAB®2020 was held in Bielsko-Biała, and it was a truly unique event.

The uniqueness of this fair resulted from its organization in the situation of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting concerns of both exhibitors and visitors as to whether the applied security measures, following from the Chief Sanitary Inspector's guidelines, will ensure the safety of the Fair participants. These fears were fluctuating in line with the daily news in the media about the number of people who tested positive for the virus and about the announced zones of vulnerable regions in the country. Although the Bielsko-Biała region was one of the least affected by the pandemic, the fears were not at all less significant, which had a substantial impact on the number of exhibitors, which was lower than in the previous years, as well as on the lower number of visitors to the Fair. On the other hand, looking at the fair from the technological side, it should be noted that the number of products related to renewable energy sources (such as photovoltaic panels and heat pumps) has definitely increased among the devices for transmission and distribution of electricity presented by the exhibitors. These devices included an entire range of inverters, converters, batteries, control and security measures and specialized software.

The "Electromobility Zone" was a particularly interesting area at this year's ENERGETAB fair, where electric cars of seven brands could be connected to several different charging stations. Some of these cars could also be driven in a specially prepared parking lot - the drift traces marked by the "Tesla" drivers there will probably remain there for longer.

A lot of interest was aroused by the demonstration of erecting a temporary 110 kV line in the technology of universal modular supporting structures (UMKW), carried out by ARINET in the "Practical Demonstration Zone," located at the ZIAD training ground. The demonstrations of the construction of exothermic connections in lightning protection systems by the BUDNIOK company were also held in this zone.

Lectures and demonstration workshops organized by the SONEL company attracted a large audience, who came to see a selection of meters and testers in a wide range of manufactured devices.

For years, many manufacturers and suppliers from the lighting industry, active in the area of both light sources as well as specialist luminaires and lighting poles manufacturing, have appeared at the Bielsko-Biała fair. They were present at the Fair this year as well, attracting especially local government representatives visiting the fair, who were intrigued by the active pedestrian "smartpole crossing" by ALUMAST, which significantly increases the safety of pedestrians in these critical areas. At this year's competition "for a particularly outstanding product presented at the Fair", the main prize – the Minister of Climate Cup – was awarded to the Institute of Electrical Systems Automation for the DCS MASTER Automation System, which supports operators and engineers of duty in servicing object-oriented technological processes. It is impossible to mention all the other awarded products here, but they are listed on the energetab.pl website.

The ENERGETAB 2020 fair was more modest than in previous years, and therefore we address our special words of thanks to all those 250 exhibitors who nevertheless decided to present their offer and, above all, to meet their customers, bearing in mind that some of them would not be able to come due to restrictions in their companies or their own personal concerns.

Reports from the fair, posted "live" in social media by both the organizers of the fair and by some exhibitors, were met with great interest, especially among those who just could not arrive at the Fair. So, did the organizers do the right thing to organize this year's ENERGETAB fair? Without any major doubts, it must be said that the answer is positive, and this is also the opinion of the vast majority of exhibitors at the Fair, as well as the organizers of other fairs in Poland, who came to Bielsko-Biała to see how the defrosting of economy and event activities works in practice.

Of course, it would have been better if more visitors came, but those who decided to visit the Fair - and the number of the scanned barcodes shows that there were 3,739 visitors - were not random people, but specialists with specific interests and questions for the exhibitors.

Let us hope that this year's ENERGETAB fair will be an exception in its long history, and that next year it will take place under normal conditions.

We wish to thank all the Exhibitors and Visitors for their participation in the Fair. Let us also invite you to the next year's Fair, which will be held from 14 to 16 September 2021.