



THE BIGGEST AND BEST PowerEXPO EVER HELD

As the event approached, its organisers began to see clearly that this year's PowerEXPO, International Exhibition on Efficient and Sustainable Energy, held in Zaragoza, Spain from September actually turned out to 20 through 22, 2006, was going to be the biggest and best to date; but even they were surprised at how successful it be.

The efficiency, renewability and safety of power supplies, and the challenge of the aeolic energy sector, along with co-generation and energy management in residential construction were just some of the topics covered at the conference and technical symposiums which took place in the context of Power EXPO 2006.

In all of its previous editions, PowerEXPO has had the appeal to bring together advanced technology and top level representatives of the energy business and institutions. It had indeed earned its place among the European events that most contribute to promotion renewable energy, high-efficiency cogeneration and other forms of energy production and consumption that adhere to environmental-protection criteria. But the 5th PowerEXPO, this year's show, clearly stands out from all the others in number of exhibitors, innovations, qualified visitors and international scope. It is therefore quite clear that the primer movers in the energy field have found PowerEXPO to be an indispensable component in their global business development strategies.

Covering a surface area 46% larger than that of the previous event, the fair occupied a total of 22,000 gross square meters of exhibition floor-space. A total of 10,506 professionals attended the event, which was set up in 3 Pavilions and an outside area where some of the most striking proposals were put on display. The number of exhibitors grew 110% from 210 at Power EXPO 2004 to 458 at this edition. The internationalization of the fair manifested itself in two ways. First of all, it was seen in the participation of foreign exhibitors, both as individuals and as part of the National Pavilions of countries such as Germany, Denmark or the Netherlands. Secondly, it was seen in the 30.2% increase, with respect to the previous event, in the number of visitors from 26 countries.

Innovation and variety from the energy industry's leaders

Over 200 direct exhibitors, representing close to 500 firms from 24 countries all over the world occupied a net floor space of around 10, 000 m² at the Zaragoza Trade Fair centre. They brought with them the newest products and systems for efficient and sustainable energy production and consumption. This year PowerEXPO extended over three exhibition halls, plus an outdoors space for extra large elements, including a solar-powered water pump, super pv solar panels with advanced tracking systems and a spectacular crane for mounting the tallest wind-turbines on the market.

Many of the most significant developments were to be found principally in the **wind power sector**. Practically all of the wind-turbine manufacturers were present, along with their most recent models. Many of the equipment manufacturers and service providers in this industry, including designers, builders and operators of wind farms, were present as well. PowerEXPO was also host to the other sectors that most contribute to the advancement of sustainable energy such as **solar power**, both photovoltaic and thermal. These companies brought extraordinary innovations and dynamism to the event. **High-efficiency cogeneration and micro-cogeneration** (including breakthrough technology in gas engines) were also well represented, as were some of the most promising energy sources of the present and future such as biomass, biofuels and hydrogen.



A trade fair in line with high-impact energy objectives

As in past editions, a number of interesting activities were held in conjunction with PowerEXPO 2006, at the level of the exhibition itself, thus complementing a display of the most advanced technologies and equipment with valuable analyses of energy policy and the industry's prospects for the future from some of its leading professionals and institutions. The **Energy Conference** held along with each edition of PowerEXPO, was sponsored by the Government of Aragón (of which Zaragoza is the capital) and organised by Enerclub and the Zaragoza Trade Fair. This year's Conference was entitled "**Energy Efficiency, Sustainability and Security of Supply**". Several of the business associations representing the major segments chose PowerEXPO as the location for important activities. For example, the Wind Energy Business Association organised a **Workshop entitled "The Wind Industry and the Challenge of Global Growth"**, which faithfully reflected the strategies for international business development of the major movers in the sector, including wind-turbine manufacturers and wind-farm developers and operators. Cogen España also organized a **workshop on high-efficiency cogeneration** in which technical and legal issues which have great impact on the future of the sector were analysed. Both events were of great interest and were attended by a large number of high-level professionals.

New models of energy generation and management for residential applications were put forward in the conference entitled "Energy Efficiency in Building". These proposals represent, according to the experts, a significant step forward in technology and a sweeping change in the way power, hot water, heating and cooling are produced and consumed in neighbourhoods and cities.

Solar energy: The sector which has experienced the greatest technological and commercial growth of all the sectors represented at the fair.

Photovoltaic technology has experienced marked growth in recent years. This becomes clear when one compares the values of certain parameters a number of years ago with their values now: companies involved in this area or jobs created by the sector, MW installed per year, etc. Photovoltaic companies are attending PowerEXPO in ever increasing numbers. This edition has witnessed the participation of companies covering the entire value chain of photovoltaic installation, from major manufacturers to the most important distributors, engineering companies and installers, etc.

Much could be said regarding the thermal solar power industry, which has entered a phase of great dynamism, driven, particularly, by the application of the Technical Building Code (Código Técnico de la Edificación), and its regulations regarding the incorporation of renewable energy in buildings. This dynamism has been positively manifested in the presence and impact of thermal solar power companies at Power EXPO 2006.

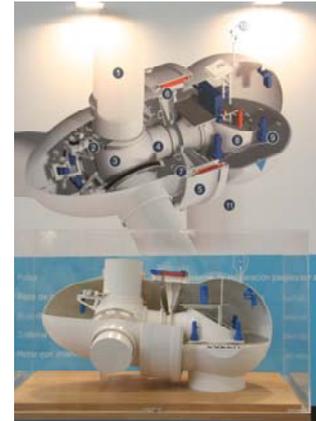
Energy in buildings: The "energy manager", an essential figure for efficiency

One of the most important new features of the recently held PowerEXPO was the presence, on the stands and in the conference rooms, of companies and institutions that pursue energy efficiency in buildings. If one bears in mind that the residential sector is the biggest energy consumer, ahead of transportation and industry, the urgent need to increase efficiency in the production and consumption of energy in homes is quite evident.

Advanced equipment and systems for producing and utilising energy in domestic and non-residential buildings (collective generation/individual use, cogeneration with fuel cells) will play a key role in implementing the new technologies being developed. At the same time, management models, in which a new figure appears, the “energy manager”, will be the key to putting high-efficiency energy systems into practice. The exhibitors and speakers at PowerEXPO 2006 contributed significantly to spreading the word about the immense possibilities in sustainable buildings.

Wind power: The industry and the challenge of global

The aeolic industry exhibits, which occupied the length and breadth of Pavilion 4, the most representative of all the pavilions on the fair grounds at the Zaragoza Fair, constituted a comprehensive and even brilliant display (featuring large, attractive and original stands) of the range of products which manufacturers make available to developers and operators of wind parks, many of whom attended PowerExpo as visitors where they were warmly welcomed by exhibitors.



High-efficiency cogeneration and micro-cogeneration

High-efficiency cogeneration was also represented at the past edition of PowerEXPO, both on its stands and in its conference rooms. Three of the leading manufacturers of gas engines (fired with natural gas, biogas and other special gases) presented significant innovations, in one case representing a milestone in the history of these efficient machines.

PowerEXPO's visitors (and the attendees at this workshop) were also informed on interesting advances in the field of micro cogeneration, especially with low-power, high-efficiency turbines for residential applications.

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