*Press Release, 17 February 2022*

**Industry thirsty for meetings**

**Although ITM INDUSTRY EUROPE will be held in several months, the exhibition space is almost entirely reserved for the most important companies in the innovation sector. It promises to be a very good edition supported by a rich programme in line with the current market trends. The new industrial policy, energy efficiency, decarbonisation and green bonds − these are only some of the thematic challenges which the organisers of this year’s fair and the Industry Next Congress will focus on.**

**Industrial production in Poland recorded the** [**second best result among EU countries**](https://businessinsider.com.pl/gospodarka/mocny-wzrost-produkcji-przemyslowej-dane-gus-zaskoczyly-drugi-miesiac-z-rzedu/w4w5heb) **at the end of last year. Experts expect a recovery in investments in the coming months, especially on the part of enterprises.**

- Last year also turned out to be record-breaking in terms of the inflow of new investments within the Polish Investment Zone.  As many as 713 decisions were issued to support investments with a total value of PLN 37.1 billion. As at 1 January 2022, 2,580 million active enterprises (single-person business activity) were also recorded in the Central Register and Information on Economic Activity (CEIDG). It is over 50 thousand more than a year ago − such data was provided by the Ministry of Development and Technology at the beginning of the year.

No wonder that good moods and hopes for a successful business year accompany the exhibitors of ITM INDUSTRY EUROPE. It is also visible in the scale of interest in the presence in this year’s edition of the event.

**Companies are waiting for the fair**

*- Talks with our partners and exhibitors are ongoing. Everyone is hungry for meetings. They are waiting for the fair. Although the last two years have been quite unpredictable for the event industry, the ITM INDUSTRY EUROPE team has been working intensively. The last edition convinced us of the need to continue business plans at the fair. The vast majority of exhibitors present in 2021 applied already this year. Companies also come back to us after a long break in exhibition activity. We are happy to welcome industrial giants such as Trumpf, Mazak and AMADA. We are also accompanied by other industry leaders who have already booked space at the fair. Such a wide-ranging exhibition ensures a successful business fair −* reveals the backstage of the organisation Anna Lemańska-Kramer, director of ITM INDUSTRY EUROPE.

As in previous years, also in this edition, you will be able to see the heart of the fair, which is already well-established in the minds of visitors, i.e. ITM − in short, three letters that build the brand of the event: **I**nnovations supporting the development of companies, **T**echnologies that are the future of the industry, and **M**achines that are an example of the implementation of the latest solutions in the industry.

The exhibition will be divided into key industries. It will include: machine tools and tools for metals, industrial automation, robots, solutions in the field of foundry and welding, and additive technologies.

**New industrial strategy at the Industry NEXT Congress**

The success of the first edition of the Industry Next Congress increased the appetite of the organisers and motivated them to prepare the next edition of the event. One of the key topics will be the industrial strategy announced by the Ministry of Development and Technology. Its scope is to reflect the current economic situation in Poland and constitute a response to the challenges faced by the industrial processing industries and, in particular, take into account the situation on the energy market.

- *During the Congress, we will discuss the situation in the Polish industry and look for solutions how to provide the Polish economy with stable conditions for further development −* says Anna Lemańska-Kramer.

The congress will be a platform for discussion on the challenges faced by companies operating in the industry in the context of the assumptions of the EU energy and climate policy, and disruptions in the supply chain and intermediates. It will also be a place to exchange experience on the application of Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things solutions by Polish and global leaders.

**Decarbonisation of industry − a necessity, not an option**

Under this title, another discussion panel of the Industry Next Congress is planned. The need for decarbonisation is becoming more and more urgent. The Paris Agreement assumes zero-emission of the entire Old Continent until 2050, and one of the important documents already adopted is the MCP (Medium Combustion Plants) directive, which sets emission standards for sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particles solids (dusts). Newly constructed MCP facilities must already comply with these standards, and existing ones have time to adapt by 1 January 2025 for installations with a capacity greater than 5 MW, and by 1 January 2030 for installations with a rated thermal input of at least 1 MW and no more than 5 MW. According to the McKinsey&Company report ‘Emission-neutral Poland 2015’, in 2017 the industrial sector was responsible for 22% of all emissions. This was mainly the result of the production of fuels, cement, chemicals and steel.

- *Industrial development will create an opportunity to use low-emission technologies in newly established plants. According to experts and the latest research, unfortunately, Polish production companies from various industries are just starting the decarbonisation process. Therefore, we consider the discussion on this subject to be extremely urgent and necessary* − adds Anna Lemańska-Kramer.

**Green industry is coming**

Now, more than ever, investors appreciate the value of incorporating ESG factors into their investment decisions, both to reduce potential risk and explore new business opportunities. One of the key tools supporting sustainable development and green transformation initiatives are green bonds. Unlike traditional debt instruments that are available on international markets, they can only be issued to obtain financing for environmentally friendly investments.

*- The observed dynamics and the growth prospects for the green bond segment clearly show the trend in which the global debt instruments market is heading. The growing interest and demand among international investors should also send a clear signal to Polish enterprises that are looking for financing for their ventures. By supporting eco-initiatives in the industrial sector, we see this subject as an opportunity for fruitful discussion at the Industry Next Congress* − announces Anna Lemańska-Kramer.

The Industry Next Congress will take place on the first and second day of the ITM INDUSTRY EUROPE fair, which will last from 31 May to 3 June 2022. The following events will be held simultaneously: MODERNLOG Trade Fair of Logistics, Transport and Storage, SUBCONTRACTING Industrial Cooperation Fair and FOCAST Foundry Forum.

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