



Press release | 12th January 2026

ILM Edition #163

Innovation & Internationality.

Power. Party. Personalities.

The start of ILM is just a few weeks away. From 7 to 9 February 2026, Offenbach will once again be the hotspot for fashion handbags, luggage, school articles and accessories. Some 300 brands from 25 countries will be presenting their latest collections for the Autumn/Winter 2026/27 season at this 163rd edition of the International Leather Goods Trade Fair. ILM is the world's only specialist fair in this segment with international appeal, and so it attracts the industry's leading players. It is where prestigious labels and major purchasers of more than 60 nationalities meet. "We are unique. This constellation is to be found only in Offenbach. That's the secret of our success," says Arnd Hinrich Kappe, CEO of Messe Offenbach, emphasising ILM's international pre-eminence.

Longstanding, established exhibitors form the centrepiece of ILM. "I am especially delighted that some well-known brands have again confirmed their attendance at the forthcoming edition. They have recognised the importance of ILM and will be making use of the trade fair to foster existing contacts and entice new customers," comments Kappe, summarising the situation.

Every edition of ILM is inspirational thanks to its comprehensive and varied offering: Recognised brands indispensable for the retail trade – including many

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fashionable handbag and accessories labels – are complemented by newcomers, start-ups and returning exhibitors. The “Young Innovators” trade fair programme sponsored by Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) will ensure that, in future, many more young, up-and-coming enterprises will be taking part in ILM. A project that, according to Kappe, promises to add valuable momentum to the industry: “This is all about products and concepts with the capacity to generate greater vitality and further raise demand, not only at the trade fair itself, but at the POS as well.” Young people and their creative potential are also the central focus of the cooperation with Reutlingen University. Two winners of the “Stoff im Kopf” (A mind for fabric) competition – an initiative lending support to entrepreneurs and start-ups from Baden-Wuerttemberg for developing their innovative business ideas in the textiles or textile-digital sector – will be given a space of their own at ILM. “Expanding our horizons is not just important – in times such as these, it is an absolute must. And so, we are really delighted to be offering a platform at ILM for the brands Crochet Club by AJ and Ashes.Lab,” Arnd Hinrich Kappe states.

TRAVEL & LEARN. The focus at the fast-approaching ILM will zoom in on two key strong-selling product categories. Fascinating talks by product developers from the luggage and school articles segments will provide guests with valuable first-hand insights and information. Besides which, inspiring talks and lectures on trends with practical ideas for ordering and selling will be a further source of sound professional knowledge.

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POWER. PARTY. PERSONALITIES. An aura of glamour will be entering the Offenbach exhibition halls in the person of well-known German TV presenter and fashion icon Frauke Ludowig. As trendsetter, she will be on the lookout for stylish highlights and will be sharing the latest trends with the general public. The aim is to give end consumers a direct foretaste of the exhibitors' fabulous products. In addition to her wide-coverage social media activities, a live discussion with Frauke Ludowig will offer exclusive insights into her personal lifestyle world.

Designing retail spaces creatively. The entrance area will feature – in close cooperation with the agency satis&fy, the international market leader for live communication and brand experience – an oversized bag with the gigantic dimensions of 3 x 3 metres: a definite eyecatcher! And the 360-degree video camera in the foyer will also be a major attraction. It will allow visitors and exhibitors to create their personal all-round videos and share them on their social networks. Arnd Hinrich Kappe is convinced: "This will guarantee a high level of entertainment value." Further to this, professionally designed areas, including a park landscape with illuminated installations, will provide an attractive setting for lingering creatively or conducting business talks. ILM will also be treading new ground with its novel gastronomy concept comprising a mobile catering facility, here too presenting exhibitors and guests with an all-round offer.

"WE ARE AN EXCELLENTLY FUNCTIONING MEETING POINT FOR THE INDUSTRY.

This is exemplified in no small manner by the many programme items that

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constitute the special charm and the strengths of ILM,” says Kappe. Innovative events, lectures on trends and round-table discussions will all be enthrallingly set in scene: Besides the popular afterwork parties, a further meeting point for invited guests promises to be the “Hidden Highlight”. On Sunday evening, 20 selected exhibitors, including innovative brands and newcomers, will have the opportunity to welcome their key customers to a get-together with flying buffet. This exclusive event is being sponsored by Messe Offenbach.

COOPERATION FOR THE FUTURE: The recently agreed cooperation with the Travel Goods Association will be attracting not only more than 20 prestigious new brands, mainly from the outdoor segment, to Offenbach, but a good many trade visitors from the USA as well.

HARNESSING SYNERGIES. Parallel to ILM, the international consumer goods trade fair “Ambiente” will be taking place in Frankfurt from 6 to 10 February 2026. The two trade fairs will be linked via a free shuttle service. Moreover, a good number of hotels will be offering special rates, allowing exhibitors and visitors a reasonably priced and pleasant stay during ILM Edition #163.

Further information at: www.ilm-offenbach.de

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