



Press release | 10. Februar 2026

ILM Edition #163: Positive feedback from exhibitors and visitors

From fashion trends to AI: Focus on expert discussions, order business and networking

WELL BEYOND EXPECTATIONS.

That was the bottom line as ILM Edition #163 drew to a close on Monday. But the International Leather Goods Trade Fair, held from 7 to 9 February in Offenbach, was about more than just placing orders. Besides the new collections for the Autumn/Winter 2026/27 season, discussions focused on several strategic subjects. Hot topics of conversation at the fair were innovative tools, the use of AI, and tried-and-tested methods of how changes can be implemented and have a lasting effect. As well as first-rate panels of experts “on stage”, the emphasis was on direct, face-to-face exchange. “The community feels very much at ease at ILM. You can sense it in the mood of togetherness and the positive vibes,” says a delighted Arnd Hinrich Kappe, CEO of Messe Offenbach. And an aura of glamour entered the exhibition halls with the appearance of TV and fashion icon Frauke Ludowig.

“WAIT AND SEE” IS NOT A STRATEGY.

Of this, exhibitors and visitors to ILM are in full agreement. In view of the many challenges, there is a need for joint solutions based on partnership. Players from trade and industry met up in Offenbach, the “living room of the leather industry”, to work together on innovative concepts – in an atmosphere that was thoroughly positive. Matthias Herr, Head of Urban Sales from Deuter, sums it up well: “In fact, I have the impression the morale is even better than last year. Everyone who headed for Offenbach wants to make a difference. Sticking your head in the sand? – No use to anyone!”

PRESS CONTACT

presse@messe-offenbach.de
www.messe-offenbach.de
www.ilm-offenbach.de

ILM

MORE FASHION FANTASY!

Retailers are in a confident mood. “Orders are being placed good style for animal prints,” Hoa Mi Steger of L.Credi- Peugler GmbH notes. Apart from classic formats, demand was strong for fake fur bags, sophisticated styles in crocodile patterns, suede, and imaginative accessories such as charms and foulards. Brown is the colour of this season, whereby fashion experts recommend the importance of combining the many natural tones with fresh, contrasting colours.

MORE INNOVATION!

Numerous innovative solutions in suitcases and luggage at ILM demonstrated how travel is being transformed by modern technologies. The new models combine design, material and electronics in well-thought-through integrated systems. Travelers can use a smartphone app to locate their luggage via GPS or Bluetooth tracking systems. Digital locks can be opened using an app or a fingerprint sensor. “In addition to new technical features, especially the increasingly popular subject of front-opening luggage, we are focusing our attention on stylish touches such as coloured wheels and zips,” is how Axel Bree, CEO of Stratic, describes the success concepts of the new collection.

MORE LEARNING!

A special focus in Offenbach was placed on the luggage and school articles segments. Product developers from selected brands presented innovative, functional aspects of their highlights in entertaining talk rounds. Besides which, a variety of talks and lectures on trends proved fascinating and inspirational. “We favour know-how with a practical bent,” explains Arnd Hinrich Kappe. “In Offenbach, retailers not only gain exclusive information at first hand, but they also pick up valuable ideas on how to create enthusiasm and shopping experience in their stores.”

PRESS CONTACT

presse@messe-offenbach.de
www.messe-offenbach.de
www.ilm-offenbach.de

ILM

MORE GLAMOUR!

An enthusiastic reception was given to the appearance of TV and fashion icon Frauke Ludwig. In a live discussion with trend expert Dr. Claudia Schulz, the RTL presenter offered the audience glamorous insights into her personal fashion world and her favourite accessories. Following that, Frauke Ludwig took the opportunity to scour the fair personally on the lookout for stylish highlights and to share her discoveries publicly via social media.

MORE CREATIVITY!

Using ultra-modern event technology to arouse emotions and leave a lasting impression – that too was part of what ILM Edition #163 was about. “Think BIG!” was the motto in the entrance area where an oversized bag proved a definite eye-catcher. Another major audience attraction was the 360-degree video camera with which visitors and exhibitors were able to create their personal 360-degree videos and share them on their social networks.

The interplay of innovation and inspiration accounts for the success of ILM. Josefine Jost of JOST puts it in a nutshell: “Everyone enjoys seeing each other here, ordering, and exchanging experiences.”

Following the close of the 163rd ILM, exhibitors and visitors alike voiced their satisfaction with how the event had gone. The high degree of internationality is a particularly pleasing aspect: Some 30 per cent of visitors had come from abroad, a fact that emphasises the international importance of ILM.

THE NEXT DATE HAS ALREADY BEEN SET: ILM EDITION #164 WILL BE HELD FROM 29 TO 31 AUGUST IN OFFENBACH.

PRESS CONTACT

presse@messe-offenbach.de
www.messe-offenbach.de
www.ilm-offenbach.de