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# **Successful conclusion of the 162nd International Leather Goods Trade Fair in Offenbach**

**Central platform for the industry attracts exhibitors and buyers from around the globe**

The 162nd edition of the International Leather Goods Trade Fair (ILM) was held from 30 August to 1 September in Offenbach. The order fair for bags, luggage, school articles and accessories presented some 300 brands from almost 30 countries, thus affirming its role as the world's most important platform for the industry. "Our trade fair is a fixpoint in a changing industry, a must-attend for buyers from the whole world. Particularly in volatile times, ILM remains a place where courtesy, trust and clear orientation are created," said Arnd Hinrich Kappe, Managing Director of Messe Offenbach, summing up three days of brisk order activity. "No other format brings together such a broad range of brands and collections in such a compact setting."

Besides its function as an order fair, ILM is an important meeting place for the branch. It provides space for dialogue and exchange between industry and commerce. Exhibitors and visitors were emphatic: In an increasingly digital world, face-to-face discussions at a fair are crucial for inspiration, for thinking ahead together and for building up lasting partnerships. "A trade fair comes alive as soon

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as it is a place for opportunities,” Arnd Hinrich Kappe observed. His comment reiterates ILM’s ambition to move beyond a mere product show to being a catalyst for change and for the future of the industry.

In its 162nd edition, the fair yet again proved captivating with a welcoming atmosphere and complementary formats such as networking offers, live music and accompanying marketing measures. “Good ideas on the part of the Messe Offenbach drew a great many people to the hall, as well as stimulating visitors’ creativity,” remarked Dominique Großkurth of the sustainable Got Bag label. The return of international brands further highlighted the significance of ILM. “We are back again for the first time in eight years and we are highly satisfied with our comeback. The fair gives us the opportunity to cultivate the German market afresh, as well as nurturing international contacts and building up new ones,” Matthias Deguigne of the luggage vendor Delsey pointed out. To which Jannice Boss of the lifestyle label bugatti added: “ILM is and remains the trade fair for our industry. There is nothing to compare to it.”

## **CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM**

In spite of geopolitical and economic challenges, exhibitors and purchasers alike shared a largely optimistic perspective for the coming months. “We can count ourselves fortunate that our industry has such a strong trade fair as this. Getting together is what matters in Offenbach – it is simply great fun,” commented Beate Jost, Head of Retail at the bag manufacturers Jost.

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The Future Hub was once again a central forum at ILM. With its panel discussions, talks on trends and practical insights, the communication platform provided fresh impetus for the new rounds of orders. Afterwork events with live music in the trade fair foyer rounded off the programme.

#### **TRENDS FOR THE COMING SEASON**

What trends will be in demand for Spring/Summer 2026? Clear answers were provided by ILM's curated brand portfolio. One major focus will be on suede: "The softness of the material emphasises the nonchalance of the new bags with an especially distinguished effect in shades of brown," explains trend expert Dr. Claudia Schulz. Besides which, pastel colours and natural nuances – above all light shades of cream offering versatile combinations – will be making their impact on the coming product range. Animal prints will remain popular, with cow and zebra patterns being added to the leopard print mainstay. And lightness, safety and smart technologies – suitcases and bags equipped with intelligent technology – will be taking centre stage when it comes to travel baggage and outdoor articles.

The dates for 2026 have also already been set: ILM #163 will take place from February 7 to 9. ILM #164 will follow from August 29 to 31, 2026.

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