

Press release

06 – 10 July 2022
Fairground Munich

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IHM 2022: New date in July 2022

The Internationale Handwerksmesse (IHM), originally planned to take place with Garten München and «Handwerk & Design» from 9 to 13 March 2022 at Messe München Exhibition Centre, is being postponed due to uncertainty in planning the event in the first quarter as a result of the pandemic. It will take place from 6 to 10 July 2022 (Wednesday to Sunday). The new conference and event ZUKUNFT HANDWERK, which was going to be held for the first time in parallel to IHM in 2022, is being postponed until 2023.

Munich, 11 January 2022 – Conditions for planning and holding a successful and worry-free Internationale Handwerksmesse (IHM) and ZUKUNFT HANDWERK from 9 to 13 March 2022 have significantly deteriorated due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic as well as the yet unpredictable development of the Omicron variant.

In addition to uncertainty around the current development of the pandemic, the urgent wishes of the exhibitors played an equal role in the decision to postpone the event. From the current perspective, despite the comprehensive hygiene strategy, it is practically impossible for service providers and employees of exhibiting companies to plan their participation for March.

Dieter Dohr, CEO and President of GHM Gesellschaft für Handwerksmessen mbH, said: "It is currently impossible to predict whether the situation will ease again by March. Our primary goal was and remains to host IHM and ZUKUNFT HANDWERK in a manner that promises success for all participants. We can no longer guarantee the planned date for the event because of what continues to be a tense situation. It is therefore the right decision to postpone IHM and the first ZUKUNFT HANDWERK."

Political events on all aspects of IHM

In order to continue providing the skilled crafts sector with the right stage in 2022 too, political events will take place during the new dates for IHM from 6 to 10 July 2022, including the opening event, the general meeting of the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts and Small Businesses (ZDH) and German

**GHM Gesellschaft für
Handwerksmessen mbH**

Press and public relations

PO box 82 03 55
81803 Munich, Germany

Paul-Wassermann-Str. 5
81829 Munich, Germany

T +49 89 189 149 160
F +49 89 189 149 169

presse@ghm.de
www.ghm.de

Management:
Dieter Dohr (chairman)
Klaus Plaschka | Klaus Dittrich

Registration Office
Munich HRB 40217

VAT ID: DE 129358691

Confederation of Chambers of Skilled Crafts (DHKT) as well as other top political talks.

With regard to this, ZDH President **Hans Peter Wollseifer** said: “It is most regrettable that once again IHM cannot be held on its usual dates in March. But it is the right decision. I welcome the postponement of the event until the summer this year. After all, our skilled crafts companies need trade fairs to present their products, innovations and services and to network. As a sector of industry and society, IHM and in future Zukunft Handwerk are of core importance to us. This is where we present our achievements, in connection with political discussion forums, such as the “Münchener Spitzengespräch der Deutschen Wirtschaft” (top-level talks of German industry in Munich). We are now directing all our efforts into planning this summer event, which will once again finally provide important stimulus from the skilled crafts sector.”

Franz Xaver Peteranderl, President of the Bavarian Confederation of Skilled Crafts and Small Businesses (BHT), said the following about the decision: “We welcome the postponement of IHM until July as an important and correct measure and thank GHM as the organiser of the trade fair for their prudent action. The skilled crafts sector is looking forward to meeting up after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic. After all, the trade fair is so important, even and especially during these difficult times, in showing particularly young people how diverse and forward-looking skilled crafts really are. This is an important symbol in times of great upheaval!”

ZUKUNFT HANDWERK postponed to 2023

The new conference and event ZUKUNFT HANDWERK, which was to be held for the first time as a live event in 2022, will be postponed until 2023 and will therefore take place from 8th to 10th of March 2023 at the ICM in Munich.

Dieter Dohr said the following about the decision: “The aim of ZUKUNFT HANDWERK is to shine a spotlight on the skilled crafts sector’s current themes, new trends and personalities from politics, industry and neighbouring sectors. As an annual summit for the skilled crafts sector, the event is designed to facilitate networking and exchange in a unique way. Unfortunately, we do not have the conditions required to host this event in 2022: It is not possible to agree a new date in the short term that suits all participants and the required space for an event of this scope is not available for the summer 2022. It is with a heavy heart, therefore, that we must postpone the launch of the live event by a year.

Now, however, we are focussing on IHM 2022, which will finally provide some positive stimulus for the whole skilled crafts sector.”

Note to the editors:

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Press contact:

Nina Gassauer, Press and Public Relations

T +49 89 189 149 160

F +49 89 189 149 169

presse@ghm.de; www.ihm-handwerk-design.com

[#handwerkdesignmuc](https://www.instagram.com/handwerkdesignmuc)



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