

Germany's Annual Global Exchange Platform for Emergency Response Systems

Rising call volumes, increasingly complex incident scenarios, rapid technological change, and limited personnel resources are presenting emergency services worldwide with growing challenges. How response organisations can position themselves for the future will be demonstrated at INTERSCHUTZ on 1-6 June in Hanover, Germany.

As the world's leading international trade fair for fire and rescue services as well as civil protection, INTERSCHUTZ 2026 will bring together decision-makers, practitioners, manufacturers, and researchers under the guiding theme 'Safeguarding Tomorrow'.

"The demands placed on emergency medical services are changing noticeably worldwide. International co-operation makes it possible to look beyond national systems," according to Hendrik Rawe, Global Director of INTERSCHUTZ at Deutsche Messe AG.

He noted that the exchange of experiences and solutions serve to "strengthen the resilience of emergency response structures and helps save lives". A central issue for all stakeholders in emergency services is managing increasing call volumes with limited resources. Demographic change, regional disparities, and shortages of skilled personnel require new organisational and technological approaches.

"INTERSCHUTZ demonstrates how processes may be accelerated, responders relieved, and systems made more resilient. At the same time, as incident scenarios become more complex: extreme weather events, failures of critical infrastructure, or multiple incidents occurring simultaneously place high demands on leadership, co-ordination, and technology," he added.



The event will adhere to the INTERSCHUTZ-motto 'Safeguarding Tomorrow' and aims to create a leading European strategic platform for those shaping the future of European fire services and civil protection (see side panel for further details on the FEU conference).

EXHIBITORS SHOWCASE SOLUTIONS

In the emergency services exhibition area, international suppliers at INTERSCHUTZ 2026 will present solutions covering the entire rescue chain - from rescue and special-purpose vehicles to medical technology, stretchers, and medical supplies, as well as digital applications and services. INTERSCHUTZ thus provides a comprehensive overview of current developments and practical innovations for day-to-day operations.

Exhibitors include companies such as Stryker and Stollenwerk, suppliers of (vehicle-mounted) stretchers and chairs in the field of medical and rescue technology. X-Cent-Tek, also known as PAX, will also exhibit in the emergency services sector as the manufacturer of the well-known PAX emergency backpacks.



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CONFERENCE COLLABORATION

As part of INTERSCHUTZ, all participants will receive an in-depth overview of the latest developments and cutting-edge technologies shaping the future of the industry. "This collaboration enriches the conference by bringing together expertise and fresh perspectives, offering participants real value through shared knowledge, inspiration, and practical insights," noted Stephan Wevers, President of FEU (Federation of European Fire Officers).

FEU will bring European fire chiefs together at the very first FEU Leadership Conference on 3-4 June, during INTERSCHUTZ 2026 in Hanover. More than 350 leaders from fire and rescue services, and civil protection authorities from Europe other regions worldwide, are expected to attend the two-day event at the Exhibition Grounds in Hanover, to discuss the strategic challenges and emerging issues shaping the future of the industry.



Up to 24 fire and rescue teams from around the world compete against each other in realistic vehicle rescue scenarios during the third Rescue Challenge by Dutch company Holmatro during INTERSCHUTZ 2026.



“The demands placed on emergency medical services are changing noticeably worldwide” – Hendrik Rawe, Global Director of INTERSCHUTZ at Deutsche Messe AG

BINZ Automotive GmbH will also be on site, presenting solutions and services related to rescue and mobility as one of the leading companies in special-purpose vehicle manufacturing. Wietmarscher Ambulanz- und Sonderfahrzeug GmbH (WAS) will also showcase its product range at INTERSCHUTZ, and for the Lower Saxony-based company, the trade fair in the state capital of Hannover is something of a home game.

Ferno will present innovative medical products and transport solutions. Its diverse portfolio includes roll-in systems, ambulance stretchers, bariatric stretchers, carry chairs, scoop stretchers, and equipment for water, ice, and air rescue operations. Weber Rescue Systems will showcase highlights in technical rescue, innovative rescue tools, a wide range of additional equipment, and digital solutions.

Dutch company Holmatro will offer a booth featuring innovative products, as well as the return of its Rescue Challenge. In this competition, 24 fire and rescue teams from around the world will compete against each other in realistic vehicle rescue scenarios.



Spencer Italia's portfolio comprises approximately 1,700 products, including transport systems, equipment for immobilisation, resuscitation, suction, and oxygen therapy, a wide range of bags and backpacks, and an extensive catalogue of personal protective equipment for paramedics and medical personnel. The offering also includes stretchers sold worldwide, as well as a chair described as revolutionary for evacuation and transport.

TRADE FAIR PROGRAMME

The 2026 exhibition will be accompanied by an extensive conference programme. One lecture, for example, will focus on emergency services in a European comparison. In addition, the National Committee for Emergency Services

will bring together representatives from all 16 German federal states to discuss current developments and necessary reforms. This reflects the federal responsibility of the states for emergency medical services in Germany.

As a global exchange platform, INTERSCHUTZ looks at emergency services within an international overall context. Different regional conditions – from dense urban areas to vast rural regions – are incorporated into the trade fair programme.

Expert forums, live demonstrations, and best-practice examples from around the world illustrate how modern emergency response systems must be designed to sustainably relieve responders and reliably protect the population. (Source: *International Fire Fighter magazine*)

‘INTERSCHUTZ 2026’ TO HOST FIRST EUROPEAN FIRE OFFICERS’ CONFERENCE

The Federation of European Fire Officers (FEU) will bring European fire chiefs together at the first FEU Leadership Conference on 3-4 June, which will take place during INTERSCHUTZ 2026 in Hannover.

In light of several pressures – including hybrid threats, geopolitical instability, digital vulnerabilities, extreme climate events, and rising public expectations – INTERSCHUTZ organisers have said that the “need for clear-headed, future-oriented leadership has never been greater”.

Over the two conference days, the FEU will bring together senior representatives from the European Commission, NATO, national fire and civil protection agencies, and international fire service leaders from the US, Australia, Singapore, and other countries to explore how European emergency services must evolve to remain capable, resilient, and strategically aligned in an increasingly disruptive world.

Conference Tickets: Ticket price €653 + €595 reservation fee (fees will be offset against hotel price). Total price for ticket + hotel package is €1,248 (including 19% VAT).

Visit www.interschutz.de/en/side-events/conferences/feu-leadership-conference/



FEU Leadership Conference

03. – 04. Juni 2026
Hannover · Germany

