

PRESS RELEASE

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Eine Messe des | A fair of  


## GrindingHub 2026: A source of inspiration for an industry undergoing radical changes

**Stuttgart, May 5, 2026** – The international grinding technology industry is gathering in Stuttgart these days: With 462 exhibitors from 28 countries, GrindingHub 2026 is once again the central meeting place for machine builders, tool manufacturers, and users in industrial manufacturing. The trade fair gets underway amid challenging economic conditions – while at the same time provides targeted impetus for efficiency, innovation, and investment security.

### Modest demand, but a stable technological foundation

The grinding industry is under significant pressure. In 2025, incoming orders fell by about 5 per cent, with the decline being particularly sharp in the domestic market. At the start of 2026, in January and February, international orders plummeted by 51 per cent, while domestic orders rose by 35 per cent. Production fell by 19 per cent in 2025, and exports by 24 per cent; the export ratio dropped to around 76 per cent – the lowest level in about six years.

“The grinding industry is facing economic challenges, but it remains structurally strong,” says Dr. Markus Heering, Managing Director of the VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association). “The industry thrives on high precision, technological expertise, and continuous improvements in process efficiency. Especially in a challenging environment, there is a greater focus on innovation and investment in more productive solutions.”

### International platform for technology and exchange

GrindingHub covers the entire value chain of grinding technology – from grinding machines and tools to measurement technology, automation, and software, all the way through to services. More than half of the exhibitors come from abroad, underscoring the trade fair’s international focus. At the same time, the trade fair benefits from its strong regional roots.

Roland Bleinroth, President of Messe Stuttgart: “Baden-Württemberg is one of Europe’s most important industrial regions – and GrindingHub makes the most of this strength in Stuttgart. The high level of participation from companies demonstrates how important this location is for the further

development of grinding technology and how effectively we are working with the VDW to create the right conditions for this."

### **The AI chatbot Hubi provides guidance at the touch of a button**

A new feature is making its debut at GrindingHub 2026: the AI-powered chatbot [Hubi](#). It streamlines and organizes individual trade fair planning – with targeted searches for exhibitors, technologies, or applications. At the same time, Hubi links relevant items from the supporting program directly to each person's interests. In this way, GrindingHub leverages the potential of artificial intelligence to make the trade show experience noticeably more efficient and user-friendly.

"Hubi is a digital tool that makes it easier to find your way around the trade fair," explains Dr. Alexander Broos, Head of Research and Technology at the VDW. "The system is constantly being updated and already helps visitors plan their stay in detail. We invite everyone to try out Hubi and actively help shape its future development." Hubi was developed by the VDW in collaboration with aiXbrain GmbH of Aachen. The information is based on data from the online exhibitor catalog as well as content from exhibitor websites that has been adapted for the trade fair context.

### **Practical solutions for today's challenges**

In addition to the exhibition, GrindingHub offers a comprehensive supporting program. With the completely revamped Grinding Solution Forum, GrindingHub 2026 is setting a clear focus on content: practical, interactive, and consistently tailored to users' needs. The focus is on real-world industrial challenges and concrete solutions – based on the "challenge–solution–insight" principle. The topics covered range from process stability and quality to automation, data, digitalization, and AI, as well as the cost-effectiveness and future prospects of grinding technology. In addition to concise hands-on sessions, interactive co-creation workshops provide a space for direct dialog and collaborative problem-solving between exhibitors and the audience. The up-to-date program and further information are available online at [www.grindinghub.de/forum-besucher](http://www.grindinghub.de/forum-besucher).

"The industry is facing critical decisions – from cost pressures and a shortage of skilled workers to sustainability and automation," said Heering. "GrindingHub provides guidance and concrete solutions for this. It is therefore not just a showcase, but a barometer of the future viability of grinding technology."

### **Background to GrindingHub in Stuttgart**

GrindingHub will take place in Stuttgart from May 5 to 8, 2026. The trade fair is staged every two years by the VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association) in cooperation with Messe Stuttgart and Swissmem (Association of the Swiss Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Metal Industry) as the promotional supporter in the industrial sector of machine tools. At the same time as GrindingHub, SurfaceTechnology Germany and MedtecLIVE will be held on the Stuttgart trade fair grounds in 2026. One ticket grants admission to all events and expands the opportunities for professional exchange. With the premiere of GrindingHub Americas from May 18 to 20, 2027, in Cincinnati, Ohio, under the motto "Where precision meets progress", the trade fair is emphasizing its growing international significance and opening up new opportunities for exchange in grinding technology in the American markets.

### **You can find texts and photos relating to GrindingHub in the press section at:**

Vorsitzender/Chairman:

Franz-Xaver Bernhard, Gosheim

Geschäftsführer/Executive Manager:

Dr. Markus Heering, Frankfurt am Main

Registergericht/Registration Court:


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<https://www.grindinghub.de/news/newsroom/meldungen/>

<https://vdw.de/kommunikation/pressemitteilungen/>

**Also visit GrindingHub on social media:**



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