Press Release

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Great success for the first edition of FSB Forum Italy, bringing together all key players in the sports facilities sector in Bergamo

Over 165 exhibitors from 17 countries confirm strong interest from the sports facilities and urban design industries in an innovative format dedicated to networking, industry updates, and collaboration

The first edition of FSB Forum Italy, the new trade show dedicated to sports facilities, recreational amenities, and urban design, closed at Bergamo Fair on 11–12 November to great acclaim and strong results, recording 4,200 attendees from 51 countries.

For two days, public administrations, federations, institutional bodies, designers, sports facility managers, professionals, and companies came together to discuss the key transformations currently shaping the sector. It is an industry where sports facilities are now taking on an increasingly strategic role as hubs for well-being, inclusion, social connection, and urban regeneration.

Strong Industry Demand for a Dedicated Platform to Modernise Sports Facilities

The strong turnout underscores the clear industry demand for a dedicated platform in a rapidly evolving market—one tasked with driving sustainability, accessibility, safety, and technological innovation across aging sports facilities in urgent need of modernization and redevelopment.

Gerald Böse, CEO of Koelnmesse GmbH, commented on the results achieved: “The debut edition of FSB Forum Italy exceeded our expectations. It was not merely a trade fair, but a genuine platform for discussion and dialogue between the public and private sectors, united by a shared commitment to rethinking the role of sports facilities and public spaces. Our goal is to contribute to the design and development of increasingly sustainable, efficient, and attractive infrastructure for users, creating the conditions for the long-term growth of the sector.”

"The participation, the high level of discussion, and the quality of contributions emerging over these two days confirm that FSB Forum Italy has established itself as a benchmark for all professionals who design, manage, and develop sports facilities and public spaces in Italy. We have created a concrete opportunity for dialogue among institutions, designers, facility managers, companies, and the sports world, addressing key topics that will shape the future of the sector. The results achieved encourage us to continue along this path, further strengthening the event's role as a

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platform for networking, innovation, and growth for the entire supply chain", commented Thomas Rosolia, Managing Director of Koelnmesse Italia and organiser of FSB Forum Italy.

Strong support from the key industry associations
One of the key strengths of the event was its rich content programme developed in collaboration with AIS, Associazione Impianti Sportivi, Move City Sport as technical and cultural partner, and main media partners Topscape Paysage, Sport&Impianti, and TSport. Together, they delivered high-caliber conferences, workshops, and in-depth sessions covering key topics such as facility redevelopment and modernization, energy sustainability, maintenance, safety, universal accessibility, and design innovation.

“As President of AIS – the Italian Sports Facilities Association – I would like to express my satisfaction with the outcome of the event, which succeeded in bringing together institutions, public administrations, federations, associations, designers, companies and operators, creating an important opportunity for meeting, discussion and the development of new collaborations. AIS believed in this path from the very beginning. After conceiving and promoting MOVE CITY SPORT, we supported FSB Forum Italy, recognizing in the event a new and important opportunity to ensure continuity in the work of promoting and enhancing the sector. Our commitment remains to support public administrations and sports facility operators, fostering dialogue with companies and providing concrete tools and connections to address the challenges of infrastructure modernization,” concluded Ezio Ferrari, President of AIS – the Italian Sports Facilities Association.

Extensive event programme featuring presentations, event areas, and business matchmaking
Alongside the conference content, numerous Event Areas transformed the show into a true experiential lab dedicated to sports and leisure. The pickleball area created with Didattica Sport, the pump track developed with PARKITECT and Mysticfreeride ASD, the GeoGym parkour area, the functional assessment space with OPES Bergamo APS, the soccer field with CSI Bergamo, and the basketball court built with Joker Floors and Artisport captured the audience's interest offering practical demonstrations and hands-on opportunities to engage with materials, technologies, and design solutions.

The matchmaking programme also played a vital role in the show’s success by facilitating targeted meetings between exhibitors and attendees, unlocking new avenues for dialogue and partnership. Across the two days, over 100 B2B meetings took place thanks to an incoming delegation program organized in collaboration with ITA, Italian Trade Agency, bringing together design, architecture, and engineering practices from 12 countries. These results underscore FSB Forum Italy’s strong business-oriented mission and its capacity to generate high-value connections across the entire industry.

Companies, institutions, designers, and local stakeholders found in FSB Forum Italy an authoritative and qualified platform to share expertise,

build professional relationships, and foster new opportunities for collaboration. This value is further underscored by the 49 institutional patronages granted by public bodies, associations, federations, sports promotion bodies, and industry organizations.

The inaugural edition of FSB Forum Italy thus lays the groundwork for an event poised to become a benchmark for the Italian and European sports facilities and public spaces market, driving the adoption of innovative solutions and fostering a design culture increasingly focused on quality, sustainability, and inclusion.

The next edition of FSB Forum Italy will take place on 15 and 16 November 2028

Koelnmesse – Global Inspiration for Living, Contract and Public Spaces

Koelnmesse is the world's largest trade fair organizer for the Living, Contract, and Public Spaces sectors. Major international trade fairs such as ORGATEC, interzum, FSB, aquanale, and spoga+gafa take place at the Cologne exhibition center, becoming renowned and established meeting points for the industry. This solid portfolio is further enriched by imm cologne and idd cologne, both of which are also held in Cologne. These trade fairs comprehensively represent the interior and design segments, furniture and interior subcontracting, the world of kitchens, all topics related to modern working environments, garden lifestyle, as well as public spaces, sports and recreational facilities, and the sauna, swimming pool, and wellness center sectors.
In addition to this, Koelnmesse is strategically expanding its portfolio in growing international markets. The imm brand family now includes imm India and IFFINA+ powered by imm cologne in Indonesia. The ORGATEC brand has consolidated a global presence with ORGATEC Tokyo, ORGATEC India, and ORGATEC WORKSPACE Saudi Arabia. The international presence of the interzum brand extends to interzum Guangzhou, interzum Bogotá, interzum Jakarta, and interzum forum italy. The FSB brand is also active internationally, with FSB Sports Show Riyadh and FSB Forum Italy in Bergamo. Furthermore, the portfolio includes La Feria De Diseño Medellín powered by idd cologne in Colombia.

Upcoming events:

FSB Sport and Show Riyadh, June 13–15, 2027
FSB, Cologne, October 26–29, 2027

Further press information will soon be available online at www.fsb-forum.com
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