

“Micromachine 2000” Held

The 11th Micromachine Exhibition, “Micromachine 2000” was held with The 6th International Micromachine Symposium at the Museum in the Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo, for three days from November 8 to 10, 2000. The exhibition met with an enthusiastic reception.

The exhibitors include Micromachine Center and 22 supporting member companies of the center. A record number of 94 companies, organizations, universities, and research institutes joined the exhibition program from Japan and foreign countries. This exhibition covered state-of-the-art micromachine technology and results of researches. The size and contents of the exhibition have been highly valued year after year as the largest exhibition specializing in micromachine technology, not only in Japan, but also in Asia.

This year’s exhibition disclosed and demonstrated all the prototype systems created by the respective member companies which participated in the 10-year project “Micromachine Technology” under the Industrial Science and Technology Frontier Program promoted by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. In other words, the exhibition was full of the comprehensive achievements of the R&D activities conducted by MMC’s member companies over a period of 10 years.

The exhibited items on general exhibition included micromachines, their components and applied systems, MEMS-related systems, molecular machine related technologies, micromachine manufacturing related equipment and materials, micromachine evaluation technologies and equipment. This exhibition was intended for experts and specialists in such fields as R&D, engineering, design, production, manufacturing, management, and administration of almost all industrial genres such as machine and precision machine, electric and electronics, medical, information and communications, automobile and transportation, biology, physics, chemistry, construction, steel, aerospace, ship and marine industries.

The exhibition is an ideal place for companies involved in the R&D of micromachines to promote their technology, equipment and products. It is also a good opportunity for universities and research institutes to make the results of their researches known to the public. In addition, new companies in the market find this occasion useful to introduce their products and technologies.

The exhibition was broadcast on several TV news programs. For example, NHK’s “News 10” aired the exhibition report for

about 3 minutes from 10:30 p.m. on November 7, while Television Tokyo’s “News Eye” reported on the micromachine exhibition also for about 3 minutes from 5:30 p.m. on November 9. On the same day, NHK Satellite 1 “Economy Frontline” on BS23 broadcasted a special report on micromachines for 8 minutes from about 11:50 p.m. Furthermore, NHK’s “Good Morning Japan” on General Channel 1 introduced detailed contents of the micromachine exhibition in terms of micromachines which serve the micro world in its “Information Box” corner on the morning of November 15.

The broadcasts focussed on areas of achievements of the national project “Micromachine Technology” including the “Experimental wireless micromachine system for inspection on inner surface of tubes” (developed by DENSO CORPORATION, SANYO Electric Co., LTD. and TOSHIBA CORPORATION), “Experimental chain-type micromachine system for inspection of outer tube surfaces” (by MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORPORATION, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., and SUMITOMO ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, LTD.), “Micro Catheter” (by OLYMPAS OPTICAL CO., LTD.), and the world-smallest experimental system for micro processing and assembling “Microfactory” (developed jointly by Seiko Instrument Inc., FANUC LTD., Hitachi LTD., Aisin Cosmos R&D Co., LTD. YASKAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION, Fuji Electric Corporate Research Institute, and MITSUBISHI CABLE INDUSTRIES, LTD.). Developers of respective systems were interviewed and the inner mechanisms and parts were described in detail.

There were a record number of about 5,500 visitors to the three-day exhibition. The exhibition floors were crowded with enthusiastic visitors who spent a long time looking at the exhibited items and asking questions to booth attendants.

Schedule of next exhibition “Micromachine 2001” Exhibition is shown below.

“Micromachine 2001”

Period: October 31 (Wed) to November 2 (Thu), 2001
Place: Science Museum in Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo
Inquiry: Mesago Messe Frankfurt Corporation.
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Exhibition full of visitors From Japan and abroad



Groups of elementary school children studying the exhibited items with enthusiasm