

The 13th Micromachine Exhibition: "Micromachine 2002"

The 13th Micromachine Exhibition, "Micromachine 2002," was held in conjunction with The 8th International Micromachine/Nanotech Symposium at the Science Museum in Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo, for 3 days from November 13 to 15, 2002.

In addition to the Micromachine Center and 11 of its supporting member organizations, generous cooperation in the arrangement of exhibitions was also provided by private businesses, universities, and independent public organizations. A total of 187 displays were exhibited by representatives of various businesses, academic groups, universities, and research organizations. The theme for this year's exhibition was this event centered on realizing an international exhibition focusing on super-accuracy, nano-fabrication, and nano-technology that will open up new frontiers in size reduction and precision. France's National Center for Scientific Research (*Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*) and five other organizations from abroad also presented exhibits.

In accordance with the increased number of exhibitors, the Micromachine 2002 exhibition occupied, for the first time, the entire first floor hall space of the Science Museum.

Furthermore, a total of 72 businesses and academic groups took part in the exhibition as newcomers, and a wide range of new technologies and products in the fields of nano-technology and micromachines were presented.

Thanks in part to the exhibition being held in conjunction with the 8th International Micromachine / Nanotech Symposium, a record attendance of 8,424 people was achieved over the three days of the event. Researchers, engineers, and administrators from the frontlines of various technological fields accounted for a large number of these attendees, and through the exchange of ideas and sharing of research information with colleagues from other fields, the exhibition provided an ideal opportunity for discussion of the possibilities for new technologies and to resolve a wide range of developmental issues.

The main products displayed at the exhibition included micromachines, their associated components, and application systems; MEMS-related systems; biotechnology and medical systems; technologies, equipment, and materials associated with precision fabrication and production; evaluation and measurement devices; software; and nano-technologies. In this regard, Micromachine 2002 was ideally suited to researchers, engineers, designers, manufacturers, and managers from fields such as mechanisms and precision machinery; electrical devices and electronics, medicine; information technology; automobiles and transportation; biology, physics, and chemistry; architecture; metallurgy; space aviation; and shipping and oceanography.

Furthermore, the exhibition provided an excellent opportunity for the promotion of technologies, devices, and products by businesses in the field of micromachine research and development; for the presentation of the results of research projects by universities and other research organizations, and for the announcement of products and technologies by other newly participating businesses. On its opening day, the exhibition was visited by Mr. Yoshifumi Fujita, Director of the Industrial Machinery Division of METI's Manufacturing Industries Bureau, who spoke at the reception that was held following the exhibition.

Micromachine 2003 will be held from November 12 (Wednesday) to 14 (Friday), 2003 at the Science Museum, Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo.

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The exhibition hall, packed with attendees.



Attendees at the post-exhibition reception