

The 14th Micromachine Exhibition: "Micromachine 2003"

The 14th Micromachine Exhibition, "Micromachine 2003," was held in conjunction with The 9th International Micromachine/Nanotech Symposium at the Science Museum in Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo, for 3 days from November 12 to 14, 2003.

In addition to the Micromachine Center and 14 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 238 displays (323 booths) were exhibited by representatives of various businesses, academic groups, universities, and research organizations. The theme for this year's exhibition was "Limitless Business Fields Opened up by Micro/Nano Technology: International Exhibition on Micro-Ultraprecision/Microfabrication, MEMS, Nanotechnology, and Biotechnology". France's National Center for Scientific Research (*Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*) and seven other organizations from abroad also presented exhibits.

In accordance with the increased number of exhibitors, the Micromachine 2003 exhibition occupied, for the first time, the entire first floor hall space and a part of the lounge of the Science Museum.

Furthermore, a total of 77 businesses and academic groups took part in the exhibition, including 2 companies participating for the first time, and a wide range of new technologies and products in the fields of nanotechnology and micromachines were presented.

Thanks in part to the exhibition being held in conjunction with the 9th International Micromachine /Nanotech Symposium, a record attendance of 8,793 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, nanotechnologies and materials, technologies related to micro-ultraprecision fabrication and production, equipment, biotechnology and medical systems, evaluation and measurement devices, and software. In this regard, Micromachine 2003 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 2004 will be held from November 10 (Wednesday) to 12 (Friday), 2004 at the Science Museum, Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo.

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The exhibition hall, packed with attendees



Attendees at the post-exhibition reception