

PRESS RELEASE

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AEF fall Plugfest in Würth fully booked

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This year the DLG-Testzentrum Technik und Betriebsmittel der Deutschen Landwirtschaftsgesellschaft [Technology and Equipment Test Center of the German Agricultural Society] was partner for the event, which took place at the Hofgut von Hünersdorff. The DLG is an AEF ISOBUS testing institute. Over the course of three days, visitors once again performed over 2000 tests at 51 stations. 30 minutes were set aside for each test. AEF Chairman Peter van der Vlugt commented: "The fact that so many companies continue to participate in this event is a clear indicator of how important our Plugfests still are, even though the Conformance Test Tool for module tests is already available – here, you can conduct more in-depth testing, to system level. This significantly speeds up the development process."

Participants from many continents attended the event. The tests on 121 electronic control units (ECU) for implements, carried out at 31 universal terminals, including a diagnostics station and a database station, all added to the high number of ISOBUS terminal/implement combinations. The number of participants testing farm management information systems (FMIS) had once again grown, with six of these companies in attendance. Peter van der Vlugt said: "The implementation of standardized ISOXML data traffic between a universal terminal and the farm computer based on the additional AEF Guidelines is a crucial step in achieving precision farming whereby products from different manufacturers can be used in combination."

The AEF regularly organizes Plugfests in spring and autumn, alternately in the USA and in Europe. They allow members of the agricultural engineering sector to test their own ISOBUS products in conjunction with those of other manufacturers. Often, Plugfest participants are able to make adjustments on the spot to achieve compatibility; sometimes, however, a little more work is required, and this must be carried out back at participating companies' premises.

The European leg of the AEF Plugfest was organized in collaboration with the DLG-Testzentrum Technik und Betriebsmittel. The next Plugfest is scheduled for the beginning of May 2016 in the USA.

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About the AEF

The Agricultural Industry Electronics Foundation (AEF) was set up as an international "round table" of the agricultural engineering sector by seven leading companies and two manufacturers' associations. The AEF promotes ISOBUS technology as defined in ISO 11783. ISOBUS primarily standardizes communication between tractors and attached implements, but it also standardizes data transfer between mobile systems and farm management systems, thus ensuring compatibility.

The organization, which currently boasts around 190 members comprising companies from the agricultural engineering sector and their suppliers, has recently introduced a conformance test for the AEF ISOBUS certification of tractors and implements. The results of the tests will be stored in the freely accessible AEF ISOBUS Database, www.aef-isobus-database.org, that can be used by customers and dealers to check compatibility of machinery. A certification label has also been issued, which has been used to identify AEF-certified products since Agritechnica 2013. The AEF's success with ISOBUS has led to the organization expanding into additional areas that are not necessarily related to ISOBUS, because it serves as a neutral "round table". Examples of these additional areas requiring certification are electric drives, camera systems, farm management information systems (FMIS), high-speed ISOBUS and wireless in-field communication.
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