



INDUMATION 2026 consolidated the trade fair's leading position as the beating heart of industrial automation in the Benelux

Kortrijk, 13 February 2026 – For three days, from 4 to 6 February 2026, Kortrijk Xpo was entirely dedicated to industrial innovation. With no fewer than **249 exhibitors and 10,911 visitors**, the 8th edition of INDUMATION was the biggest in the history of the trade fair. The event thus consolidated its position as the leading platform in the Benelux for everything related to automation, digital transformation and the evolution towards Industry 4.0 and 5.0.

Record-breaking edition highlighting technological maturity and a holistic vision

Started in 2011 as a simple yet ambitious project, this trade fair has now become the go-to event for the entire industrial community. In addition to attracting a growing number of visitors, the latest edition also highlighted the maturity of the content offered by the platform. According to the organisers (**Industrialfairs, Agoria and Indumotion**), the calibre of both visitors and exhibitors was particularly high. Companies had clearly made every effort to deliver compelling and insightful presentations, as well as stands that made innovation feel truly tangible.

The trade fair no longer focuses solely on automation, but rather on a holistic approach in which autonomy, digital transformation, human expertise and sustainability are key. On the exhibition floor, exhibitors increasingly combine hardware components, HMI, and motion control with digital, AI-driven applications in (IIoT-)connected processes. All of this is optimally secured within the OT context, with the ultimate goal of achieving a fully autonomous, best-in-class solution for the factory of tomorrow. Themed tours and an AI-driven personalisation tool also helped them make the most of their visit.

Three exhibition days, each with its own distinct dynamic

On day one, everything went smoothly and efficiently. From the very first hours, you could tell that visitors had headed to Kortrijk with specific projects and investment plans in mind.

Thursday saw a significant spike in visitor numbers, which contributed to a particularly lively atmosphere during the day and also in the evening during the late-night event. The combination of expert knowledge and informal networking generated considerable enthusiasm, which was unanimously expressed by all exhibitors.

And on Friday, the focus was, as usual, more on teams and deepening knowledge, through specific routes for SMEs wishing to embark on the digital transformation journey.

Knowledge programme with international outlook

The programme of fringe events was more comprehensive than ever before. As part of this, various experts from industry, research and technology shared insights on current topics such as smart manufacturing, data integration and cyber resilience. Flanders Make, Atlas Copco and Smurfit Westrock, among other speakers, presented specific practical cases.

Cybersecurity was a key topic of discussion and was at the heart of the debate ('OT cybersecurity – Where are we now and what's next?'), which was organised in collaboration with Cyber Made in Belgium. In this discussion, experts from Siemens Digital Industries, Palo Alto Networks, Unilin and Spotit addressed the issue of the growing threats facing industrial networks, from legacy vulnerabilities to Internet exposure. The impact of Industry 4.0 and 5.0, edge computing and AI, as well as the growing interconnection between IT and OT, were also discussed at length. The debate thus helped paint a very clear picture of the current situation in the field of OT cybersecurity and the strategic choices that need to be made to ensure long-term security in production environments.

Teams who visited the exhibition also had the opportunity to interactively discover the current cyber threats facing production sites through an interactive escape game themed around OT cybersecurity.

On Thursday, one of the highlights was the keynote speech by China expert Pascal Coppens, which made the audience realise how fast industrial innovation is growing in Asia. In the panel discussion that followed, featuring representatives from research and industry, the importance of cooperation and knowledge sharing between European countries was strongly emphasised. The future of the manufacturing industry was discussed not from a defensive perspective, but with an ambitious outlook.

Focus on talent and the future

INDUMATION has also cemented its role as a bridge between industry and education. During the Learning Tours, organised in collaboration with Agoria and various partner companies, hundreds of students were treated to a glimpse of tomorrow's technologies.

The RTC Match-Up event held on Wednesday brought together schools, manufacturing companies and technology partners to discuss sustainable collaboration, talent development and workplace learning. INDUMATION is thus becoming more than just a trade fair: it is now a community that actively contributes to enhancing technical education and recruitment.

Practical innovation for SMEs

Friday Team Day offered hands-on sessions on applications of AI and immersive technology (AR/VR/XR), aimed at smaller teams seeking to take concrete steps. The practical approach and direct applicability provided participants with insights that can be immediately put to use in the workplace.

Impact beyond the trade fair days

During the three days of the trade fair, 8 live episodes of the *Indusruptiv* podcast (an initiative by Industrialfairs, hosted by Karl D'Haveloose) were recorded. This allowed the dialogue on industrial innovation to continue beyond the trade fair days at Kortrijk Xpo.

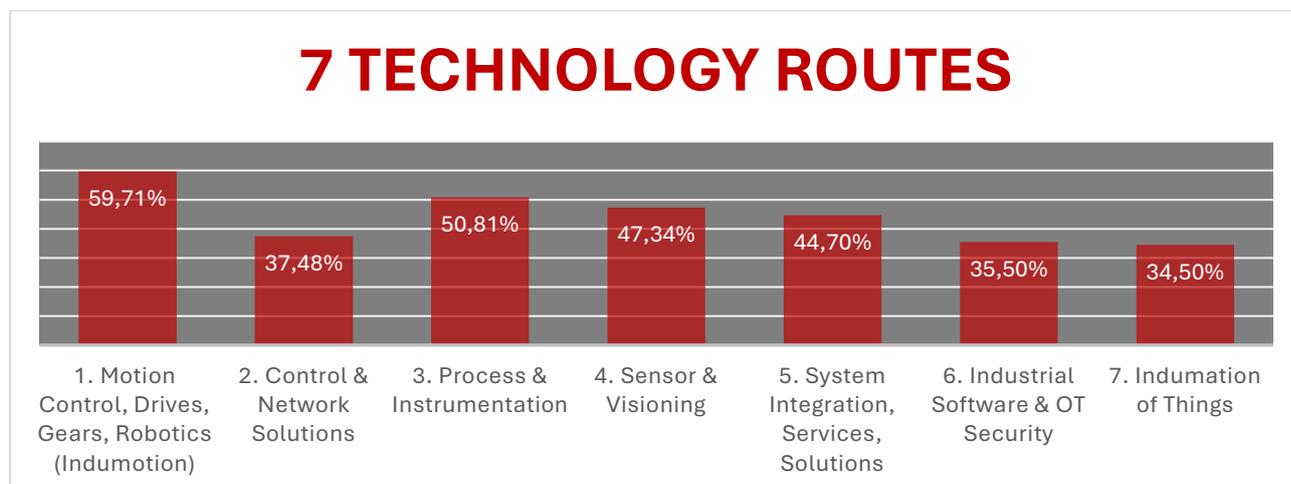
With record figures, an exceptional range of topics and a clear vision of the future, the 2026 edition of INDUMATION reaffirmed the trade fair's role as a must-attend event for anyone wishing to help shape the future of industry starting today. This 8th edition marked a major milestone in terms of its scale, relevance and impact. Both visitors and exhibitors are already looking forward to the next edition of INDUMATION, which will once again be held at Kortrijk Xpo, from **9 to 11 February 2028**. Members of the community will, however, be able to meet before that date during the INDUMATION Network Event (INE), which will take place on Thursday 4 March 2027 in Leuven, where decision-makers from the industry will once again come together to network, share their knowledge and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

INDUMATION facts & figures

Top 12 sectors represented by visitors

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|---|--------|
| Machine building – High-tech systems & Mechatronics | 21,9 % |
| Engineering and automation services / integrators | 21,5 % |
| Food & Drinks | 15,4 % |
| Electrical installations High/Low voltage | 14,9 % |
| Agro-industry / Agriculture / Mining | 13,2 % |
| Oil and gas industry / Chemical industry | 12,6 % |
| Production and distribution of building materials | 10,1 % |
| Energy, water, nuclear power generation, storage | 10,1 % |
| Pharmaceutical industry | 9,9 % |
| Logistics, Storage, Handling and Transport of goods | 9,9 % |
| Packaging industry | 9,8 % |
| Automotive industry | 8,2 % |

Interest generated by the 7 technology routes



Downloads & links:

- [Aftermovie](#) (link)
- [Press photos](#) (link)



For additional press information, please contact the organisation.

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