



Held once every three years, the IFAT trade show is one of the most important exhibitions covering refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing and winter/infrastructure maintenance. The 2008 Munich event was well worth the wait.



IFAT 2008

The triennial trade show attracts professionals from around the world

Waste, recycling and composting equipment, together with machine-based solutions to help improve standards of cleansing and infrastructure maintenance, have never been such a hot topic. And judging from conversations with visitors and exhibitors alike in Munich, there is a feeling of excitement and a confidence that communities will increasingly demand that their streets and highways are kept clean and tidy.

The majority of professionals seem to accept that in order to increase levels of waste recycling further – and keep pace with rising consumption of consumer goods exacerbated by the still-growing global population – the size of the market for the equipment we use must also grow significantly.

Domestically many European companies are forging ahead with new ideas amid growing global competition. The leading

manufacturers are seeking to develop complex new products in order to meet forthcoming EU legislation, while keeping costs and prices low enough to prevent their home markets being swamped by cheap foreign imports assembled by cheaper labour. But while some manufacturers see that as a negative and are getting entwined in increasingly confusing marketing agreements with other brands, other leading companies have managed to raise their game and have either maintained market share in a toughening market, or managed to increase production dramatically as a result of technical innovation.

Sweeper surge?

There has already been a significant number of new sweeper models from the likes of Mathieu Yno, Johnston and Applied – now it's the turn of Scarab, Faun and Italian manufacturer



