LOPEC
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Lopec.com

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LOPEC 2027: printed electronics for a smart home

- **AI robotics: artificial helpers with a sense of touch**
- **Ultra-thin batteries and transparent solar cells**
- **LOPEC Roundtable: how scaling works**

LOPEC, the world's leading exhibition and conference for flexible and printed electronics, will be held in Munich from March 2 to 4, 2027. The focus is on innovations that make our lives easier and, at the same time, more sustainable.

Whether it's robots with tactile sensing, ultralight solar cells, or ultra-thin sensors in building technology: "Flexible printed electronics is the key technology for a smart future, because it makes our everyday environment increasingly intelligent," emphasizes Armin Wittmann, LOPEC Exhibition Director at Messe München. Smart Living is a recurring theme throughout the trade fair, conference, and supporting program at LOPEC 2027. "Artificial intelligence plays a crucial role here because the combination of printed electronics, robotics, and AI opens up unimagined possibilities," says Wittmann.

Sensitive robots

LOPEC exhibitor FLEXOO is exploring the megatrend of Physical AI—the combination of AI and real-world physical actions. The Heidelberg-based company develops tactile sensors for robots so that they can sense what they are touching—such as how smooth, slippery, or fragile an object is. This allows the robotic helpers to control their actions more precisely. Since AI also enables them to understand situations and contexts, they will soon be able to handle many tasks that they are not yet capable of performing—in industry, healthcare or the home.

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For the first time, the LOPEC conference is offering a dedicated AI session. “Physical AI is only made possible in the first place by printed electronics,” emphasizes Wolfgang Mildner, General Chair of LOPEC and CEO of the German consulting and technology firm MSWtech: “Only printed electronics is thin enough and flexible enough to be easily integrated into robots without restricting their mobility.”

Sustainable energy supply

AI and printed sensors that monitor indoor climate and other parameters also enhance energy efficiency and comfort in building systems. The thin, flexible sensors can be integrated into any object or discreetly attached anywhere—without the need for complex wiring, since power is provided by mini batteries. At LOPEC, both the Japanese corporation NGK and the Swiss startup BTRY are showcasing ultra-thin, flexible batteries based on lithium-ion technology. BTRY batteries are as thin as a strand of hair and operate at temperatures ranging from minus 40 to plus 150 degrees Celsius.

Printed organic solar cells from LOPEC exhibitors Dracula Technologies of France and Epishine of Sweden are also suitable for small devices such as building cameras and smoke detectors. They generate electricity even from dim interior lighting.

The challenge of scaling

“Many printed electronics manufacturers have made the leap into industrial applications, while others are on the verge of doing so,” explains Mildner. Visitors will learn all about scaling at the LOPEC Roundtable 2027. And there are also plenty of success stories to discover at LOPEC. Epishine’s indoor solar cells, for example, are already used in Google TV remote controls. And the electronic paper from LOPEC exhibitor E Ink has long since moved beyond use in e-book readers; it is now also used in digital price tags, advertising displays, and picture frames that change their image at the touch of a button. The displays consume power only when the image or text changes; otherwise, they use very little energy. E Ink’s electrophoretic technology is also used in automotive manufacturing: It transforms the vehicle’s exterior into a programmable, paint-like digital surface that can change color.

“LOPEC showcases printed electronics’ full range of innovation and diversity,” emphasizes Armin Wittmann. “Whether you’re an insider or a newcomer, a researcher, an industry representative, or a designer: We’ll bring everyone interested up to speed and look forward to a lively exchange.”

More information can be found at lopec.com

LOPEC
LOPEC (Large-area, Organic & Printed Electronics Convention) is the world's leading event for printed electronics. The combination of exhibition and conference covers the complexity and dynamism of this young industry perfectly. LOPEC is organized jointly by the OE-A (Organic and Printed Electronics Association) and Messe München GmbH. The next event will take place from March 2 to 4, 2027 at Messe München's International Congress Center.

Messe München
As one of the world's leading trade fair organizers, Messe München presents the world of tomorrow at its around 90 international trade fairs. These include 14 of the world's leading trade fairs such as bauma, BAU, IFAT, and electronica. Its portfolio comprises trade fairs for capital and consumer goods, as well as for new technologies. Together with its 1,300 employees in the group and the affiliated companies, it organizes trade fairs in China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Thailand, and the U.S. With an international network of affiliated companies and foreign representatives, Messe München is active worldwide. The more than 150 events held annually attract around 50,000 exhibitors and around three million visitors in Germany and abroad. That makes Messe München an important economic driver, triggering purchasing power effects in the billions.

OE-A – Advancing the Flexible and Printed Electronics Industry
The OE-A is the world's leading industrial association for flexible, organic and printed electronics. It represents the entire value chain of this industry. Its members are world-leading companies and institutions, from research and development institutes to mechanical engineers and material manufacturers to producers and end users. 180 companies from Europe, Asia, North America, and Africa work together in the OE-A to promote the development of a competitive infrastructure for the production of flexible and printed electronics. OE-A is an international working group within VDMA. www.oe-a.org