

## Press release

Geneva, 22 March 2017

### **45th INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF INVENTIONS : MORE AND MORE TECHNOLOGY, MORE AND MORE POPULAR**

Recently taken over by Palexpo SA, the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva will be held in Palexpo's Hall 7 from 29 March to 2 April. The biggest event of its kind in the world, the Exhibition is increasingly seen as a top-level technological showcase, while also catering to the general public with its array of popular and eye-catching inventions.

" We were delighted to take over the Exhibition founded by Jean-Luc Vincent in this its 45th year , " said Palexpo's General Manager Claude Membrez. " The takeover will secure the event's future while also giving Palexpo another feather in its cap as host of the third most publicised exhibition to be held at the Exhibition and Congress Centre. "

With 725 exhibitors expected from 40 countries, the event will see around a thousand new products showcased at Palexpo. 80% of the inventors represent businesses, universities or research institutions, with the other 20% being independent. All are travelling to Geneva in the hope of finding investors, manufacturers or distributors, or to negotiate licences. Asia accounts for the lion's share of exhibitors (52%), with 32% coming from Europe, 12% from the Middle East and the rest from elsewhere in the world. Visitors will discover inventions spanning all fields of human activity, spread across 8,500 m<sup>2</sup>. The most represented fields are medicine and health, environmental protection and energy, mechanics, IT, transport and security. The Exhibition's President, Jean-Luc Vincent, is pleased by its enduring success : " For the past 45 years, we have been all about providing a global and professional showcase to anyone who has an invention they want to promote. We are proud of what we've achieved. "

#### **STARRING ROLE FOR EFPL EXOSKELETON**

Taking pride of place at this year's show will be Twice, an exoskeleton developed by a team from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL). The invention, which will be demonstrated each day– by paraplegic athlete Silke Pan,– opens up new possibilities for people confined to wheelchairs. But it will be far from the only popular attraction. Visitors will get to enjoy 3D printing workshops, with the printed items sold for charity, and a drone simulator, among other highlights. There will also be a humanoid robot capable of moving independently in public spaces, which will be in the arrivals hall of Geneva airport on 27 and 28 March and at the exhibition on Wednesday, 29 March for the opening of the event.

**Patronné par:**

La Confédération Suisse – L'Etat et la Ville de Genève  
L'Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle – OMPI

**Under the patronage of:**

The Swiss Federal Government – The State and City of Geneva  
The World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO

## A UNIQUE EXHIBITION

The International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva is unique in a number of ways. Firstly, in the interests of credibility, it is only open to innovations that have been patented for under a year and have never been presented in Geneva before. Secondly, it is sponsored by the highest-ranking political and technical bodies, namely the Swiss Federal Council and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). Last but not least, it is supported by an 85-member expert jury covering the various categories of inventions, who hand out around 50 awards, including the prestigious Grand Prix and the Invention Oscar awarded by the public.

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