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### STANDARDS, TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSED AT LIFT CONGRESS

by Undine Stricker-Berghoff

About 150 participants from 22 countries gathered in Villingen, Germany, on October 16-17 for European Lift Congress Heilbronn 2018. Speakers at the event gave presentations on new, unified standards and new technologies, from digitalization to multidirectional lift cars. Georg Clauss, CEO of organizer Technical Academy Heilbronn, opened the event, and Wolfram Vogel, congress chairman, thanked thyssenkrupp officials for their arrangements at the company's Rottweil test tower. Among the presenters were Esfandiar Gharibaan, vice president, codes, for KONE and chairman of CEN/TC 10, who discussed efforts toward unified, global codes; Roberto Zappa, president of the European Lift Association, who discussed the role technology, such as the Internet of Things and building information modeling, will take as cities work to navigate growth; and Volker Zapf of Schindler, who told of his company's use of immersive virtual reality in early product development, training and marketing.

A highlight of the event was an excursion to thyssenkrupp's new, 243-m-tall test tower in Rottweil. The guests were shown drives, dampers, shafts and elevators installed in 12 existing shafts: TWIN, panoramic and fire-service lifts. They were then treated to detailed technical explanations of MULTI units. The next European Lift Congress Heilbronn will be held in autumn 2020 and return to Heilbronn.

