

Europe's berry and asparagus industry will meet at the Messe Karlsruhe (Germany) from 19 to 20 November 2025

Excellent: Five exhibitors receive the expoSE/expoDirekt Innovation Award 2025

Bruchsal, 17 November 2025. Five exhibitors will be honoured for their innovative products at the expoSE and expoDirekt trade fair duo on 19 November 2025 with the expoSE and expoDirekt Innovation Award 2025. An independent jury of experts evaluated 37 submissions based on criteria such as novelty, user benefits and economic success. The award-winning products make everyday work easier for asparagus and/or berry growers, save time and money, and also focus on sustainability.

The winners of the expoSE Innovation Awards:

Ant Robotics from Stelle (Germany): VALERA Cube – Autonomous tunnel sprayer for professional use

The VALERA Cube spray robot was developed for protected cultivation and specifically for use in racks. It can treat three to seven rows at the same time and has two large tanks that enable long periods of use. Supported by solar technology, it achieves a long range and works completely independently across the entire site. In the tunnel, the VALERA Cube navigates precisely using sensors – even at night, it operates completely autonomously, reliably detecting obstacles and stopping or avoiding them independently.

The VALERA Cube can be accessed at any time via an app. The system detects when a tank is empty and continues its mission in exactly the same place after refilling. In addition, GPS data and information on the pesticides used are available in machine-readable form. This means that the VALERA Cube already meets the requirements for digital documentation of plant protection measures, which will become mandatory from 2026. Further information is available at expoSE in Hall 2, Stand L08 and at www.antrobotics.de

Bioline AgroSciences from Essex – Little Clacton (United Kingdom): Sprayvent – precision sprayer for applying beneficial organisms without scattering or spillage

Bioline Agrosiences launched its new precision sprayer for predatory mites, Sprayvent, in 2025. According to the manufacturer, it is the world's first system specifically designed for the precise and effective spraying of predatory mites such as *Phytoseiulus persimilis* in liquid phase. The sprayer combines the patented process of safely transferring predatory mites and other beneficial insects into liquid phase using a novel liquid formulation that keeps mites (as well as eggs, pupae and nematodes) in suspension in the tank without them settling in the liquid. In addition, the patented nozzle sprays the liquid predatory mite formulation precisely,

gently and effectively onto plant stocks. It offers an effective, uniform and powerful method of applying predatory mites, saving gardeners time and money and conserving resources. Further information is available at expoSE in Hall 2, Stand I20 and at www.biolineagrosciences.com

Voltiris from Epalinges (Switzerland):

Solar modules with sun filter technology for larger fruit and higher yields

In collaboration with 3M, Voltiris has developed modules that use a special filter that allows the light necessary for strawberry growth to pass through while converting unwanted heat into renewable energy. This means up to 5 °C cooler plants and larger strawberries – and at the same time, the generation of renewable energy directly in the greenhouse.

Preliminary test results show promising effects: the largest berries are up to 22% larger, overall yields are increasing slightly and fruit waste is reduced by about half. Leaf temperatures were measured to be up to 5 °C lower, which led to larger fruits. Further information is available at expoSE in Hall 2, Stand K12 and at <https://voltiris.com>

The winners of the expoDirekt Innovation Awards:

FrachtPilot from Münster (Germany) in cooperation with FlexFleet Solutions:

Digital control centre for harvest & sales stands

FrachtPilot presents a fully digital control centre for direct marketers: harvest and working time recording, decentralised warehouse management, allocation to sales stands, route planning and seamless batch tracking are seamlessly integrated. The new sales stand management system provides live stock and sales figures for each stand, calculates recommendations for subsequent deliveries (including route reference) and offers evaluations of turnover, item performance and loss risks. A live dashboard highlights bottlenecks and top sellers and prioritises subsequent deliveries – ideal for seasonal peaks and decentralised teams (farm shops, market stalls and strawberry/asparagus stalls). The solution is cloud-based, ready to use immediately and integrated into the FrachtPilot suite. Further information is available at expoDirekt in Hall 1, Stand B11, and trial access is available via www.frachtpilot.de/verkaufsstand-verwaltung

NonStop Shop from Meppen (Germany):

Calibrated scales in vending machines for gram-accurate billing

The calibrated scales from NonStop Shop weigh the contents of each of the 430 product trays immediately before dispensing, if desired. This means that loose goods such as strawberries, asparagus or meat do not have to be weighed by hand beforehand by the person filling the machine. In addition, even refrigerated products suffer evaporation losses. These can be considerable, especially in the case of berries and asparagus. For example, to give a customer 500 grams of strawberries, 8-12 grams must be added to the calculation. These losses are eliminated with the scales. Customers and operators are billed to the nearest gram. Further information is available at expoDirekt in Hall 1, Stand D20 and at www.nonstop-shop.de

The expert jury

An independent expert jury reviewed and awarded the submissions. The jury members are Steffen Finder, berry fruit consultant at the North Rhine-Westphalia Chamber of Agriculture, Horticultural Research Centre Straelen/Cologne-Auweiler, Ralf Große Dankbar, asparagus consultant at the North Rhine-Westphalia Chamber of Agriculture, Ute Heimann, editor-in-chief of the trade journal HOFdirekt, Isabelle Kokula, asparagus consultant at the Karlsruhe District Office, and Thomas Kühlwetter, editor-in-chief of the trade journal Spargel & Erdbeer Profi

The Association of South German Asparagus and Strawberry Growers (VSSE)

With around 630 members, the Association of South German Asparagus and Strawberry Growers (VSSE – Verband Süddeutscher Spargel- und Erdbeeranbauer e.V.) is Germany's largest association for asparagus and strawberry growers. Since 1996, it has been the organiser of expoSE – Europe's leading trade fair for asparagus and berry production, and since 2011 it has also organised Germany's largest agricultural direct marketing fair, expoDirekt. Further information is available at www.vsse.de

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