

FC-NEWS 02/06

Dear fischertechnik fans,

It is my very great pleasure to be able to present the "gigantic" new autumn products in this issue. The two new products "Super Cranes" and "Automobile" guarantee practically unlimited fun. May I also take this opportunity to draw your attention to the pending special sales campaigns. This is completely new: "Red wins" is the motto for all four ex-stock sales. If you can manage to draw one red unit from many black ones, then you can grab as many red basic units as you can hold in two hands. From 2 November 2006 to 30 April 2007, the exhibition "Play with technology" is being held in the German Museum of Technology in Berlin. fischertechnik is the official partner of the museum and exclusive sponsor of the accompanying programme of events. See page 3 for more details. It just remains for us to wish you great fun in reading the very latest NEWS!

fischertechnik visits the Club-Dag in Holland

A dream came true for the Dutch fischertechnik fan club on 27 May 2006: Professor Fischer, Mr. Keller (Managing Director of fischertechnik GmbH) and three other employees of fischertechnik visited the Club-Dag in Apeldoorn. We could hardly wait to see what was expecting us in Apeldoorn. Professor Fischer opened the door to the exhibition room to a warm round of applause from all visitors. The atmosphere was intoxicating. After a brief welcome from the fan club, Professor Fischer gave a short speech to say thank you for the invitation and to congratulate on the super organisation. We then toured the exhibition. The event had attracted the attention of the Dutch press, and a local TV station had also sent a team of reporters. As ever, the focus of the Club-Dag concentrated on all the fischertechnik models made by the fans. We want to share with you just some of the impressions from this wonderful day in this small selection of pictures. We too would like to extend our cordial thanks to the Fan-Club Nederland for their hospitality!

Repair service

With immediate effect, we can offer you a very special repair service. Electronic fischertechnik components such as the universal and intelligent interface, extension module, E-Tec module, data link and receivers I & II can be repaired by Messrs. Knoblauch. Detailed information is available on the website www.fischertechnik.de under Products/Shop – Repair Service. Take a look to find out all the details!

Wedding greetings

The Siegemunds received a super wedding card from us in August: a friend had told us that the bride and groom are great fans of fischertechnik. We reacted promptly with a unique form of wedding greetings. May we take this opportunity to wish the Siegemunds all the very best in their new life together!

Red wins, red wins, red wins ... !

fischertechnik is starting a unique campaign for the pending special sales in the autumn: every visitor will have a chance to draw a unit "blind" out of a box. Every red unit wins! The winner can then reach into another box filled ONLY WITH THE NEW RED BASIC UNITS, and take away as many units as he can hold in two hands. Use this unique opportunity to grab your luck by the handful! Red wins – every time!

Exhibition "Play with Technology" in the German Museum of Technology, Berlin

Just a few weeks ago, fischertechnik entered into a super form of cooperation with the German Museum of Technology, Berlin. fischertechnik is the official partner of the exhibition "Play with Technology" and exclusive sponsor of the accompanying programme of events. The exhibition is being held from 2 November 2006 to 30 April 2007; visitors can not only admire interesting fischertechnik models but also attend fischertechnik computing workshops. Together with the very latest technical toys, the exhibition also includes exhibits from the far distant past. It looks at the interaction between play and technology. Covering a period of 250 years, the exhibits include baroque moving figures, the technicised funfair and industrial technical toys, right through to modern computer games and sports games. More information is available at the website of the German Museum of Technology in Berlin www.dtm.de

Careful, building site!

New ideas for fischertechnik master builders.

The new fischertechnik sets for children from seven years will give children heaps of constructional fun in turning their rooms into a complete building site! The bulldozer from the Basic Bulldozer set (€29.95) moves the earth, the building crane with 1 m jib from the Super Cranes set (€119.95) lifts the construction elements off the tipper truck from the Advanced Automobile set (€59.95). This set consists of 350 parts for making up eight different models: four trucks and four cars. The tipper truck and roller tipper truck are specialists for bulky loads, while the Unimog can cope with even the most difficult terrain. The breakdown truck with sliding platform hooks up vehicles in need of repairs. Winches, worm gears or double pivot steering convey structural principles of automotive engineering while at play. Those who feel inclined so can race the buggy through the room or use the off-roader to cope with remote terrain where there are no consolidated play roads. And the elegant roadster turns the simple road into a smart boulevard. The Super Cranes set takes up one of fischertechnik's classic topics. 780 individual parts can be put together to make up three different models. With a 1 m jib, the building crane lifts the units through the room up to a height of 1 m. The detailed instructions also show you how to make a gantry crane and a heavy load crane. The crane can naturally also be fitted with motors for control. All sets are available straight away!

Winners from Fan-Club News 01/2006:

Martin Staudenhecht, Benedikt Grünhag, Simon Kohrs!

Closing date for the current competition: 1 March 2007

Current prizes: 3x Basic Bulldozer. The solution can also be submitted by e-mail! The heading must then include "Fan Club Solution"! E-mail address: info@fischertechnik.de

Breakfast

Friedrich and Hanns-Martin Hiller from Gärtringen like cornflakes for breakfast, and also like making fischertechnik models in their leisure time. And so they came up with the brilliant idea of making a fully automatic cereals machine using fischertechnik! How does the cereals machine work? To start with, put a €1 coin in the slot. Then choose one of three sorts of cereal. After you have made your choice, a plastic fish comes down and is filled automatically with the selected cereal. Milk is then added through a tube. The cereals machine consists mainly of fischertechnik elements and is programmed with the fischertechnik software "Robo Pro". Thieves don't stand a chance, with an alarm system protecting the coin slot. These guys and their cereals machine were already on TV at the end of March, and won third place in the recent state "Jugend forscht" (youth research) competition in Rhineland Palatinate. The TV appearance was both exciting and nerve-racking for the two brothers, because they had no opportunity to test their cereals machine on the spot. But the fischertechnik structure did the two inventors proud! It took the brothers two years from the initial idea until the cereals machine was completed. They even filmed the proceedings; the film can be downloaded from the website www.fischertechnik.de under Fanclub/Projekte/Müsimaschine (Fanclub/Projects/CerealsMachine).

RoboCup WM in Bremen

The 10th RoboCup World Championships were held in Bremen from 14 to 18 June 2006.

Around 2,500 participants from 36 countries brought their self-made robots to the competition to kick, rescue and dance. All robots shared one common feature: they had to decide what to do on their own. Of course some of the teams used fischertechnik. The "Fantastic Five" were very successful in the RoboDance Junior. On the way to the world championships, the five girls won third place in the qualification event, but during the actual world championships in Bremen, they got no further than the preliminary round. The international competition was simply too strong. The whole concept started with the idea of making a dancing penguin from fischertechnik. One penguin shows the other how to dance, and they have to copy him, including flapping their wings, turning their heads and wagging their tails. Of course the models had to be extremely robust. The answer: fischertechnik! During the event, visitors could take a look at the fischertechnik stand to find out all there is to know about using fischertechnik in robotics, in teaching and at university.

We hope of course that this article can arouse your enthusiasm for the RoboCup. Detailed information about the RoboCup is available at www.robocup2006.org.

Our congratulations go to the "Fantastic Five": Nina Bauer, Jana Steinke, Tuba Zahid, Kim Wedig and Jana Rossberg. We'll be keeping our fingers crossed for you at the next RoboCup World Championships!