

CeBit showcases 'datability'

CeBit — the digital industry's biggest trade fair — has opened its doors. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron officiated at the opening as the UK is this year's partner country.

The main theme is 'datability' how to handle, manage and use data. A pertinent theme as recent headlines have highlighted concerns about private data protection. German software giant SAP showed how big data solutions can help improve football players performances with the analysis powered by its HANA platform. It is a joint project with the German national team ahead of the World Cup.

"There will always be personal decisions by the coach. There will always be players who disprove of the statistics, it happens in other sports. This is nothing more than a tool. The computer or the software don't score goals or take decisions. They are helping to take the right deci-

sions," explained Olivier Bierhoff, who is the manager of the German national football team.

CeBit is not just aimed at the professional, the end user is not forgotten. Microsoft and Intel were showing their 2-in-1-PCs hoping they would be the first choice for consumers instead of Apple or Android tablets. German car maker Audi, which is owned by the Volkswagen Group, is looking ahead to the future and showed 'James 2025' a prototype of what the manufacturer believes could be the virtual cockpit in years to come. Samsung has the instant answer for pregnant mothers who want to share 3D scans of their unborn child without having to wait for print outs. It's called 'Hello Mum'.



The world's largest and most international computer expo

"This is a solution for obstetric patients that makes available foetal ultrasound images right after the scan. It's an innovative and efficient method because you no longer have to print out the picture or burn the

data onto a CD," explained Tim Biersa, who is product manager of Ultrasound Samsung Electronics.

There are 3,400 exhibitors showcasing their digital innovations at this year's fair.

Slovakia deflation puts more pressure on European Central Bank

Slovakia has become the third Eurozone country to slide into deflation

In February consumer prices were down 0.1 percent from January. They also fell by the same amount from February last year. Slovakia joins Greece and Cyprus. They had annual deflation in January of around 1.5 percent. Portugal and Spain are hovering around zero.

This puts more pressure on the European Central Bank to do something to prevent deflation spreading further in the Eurozone. ECB President Mario Draghi doesn't believe it is a threat though and has said there is no need for more stimulus right now.

Many more economists disagree, including some at the International Monetary Fund. Eurozone inflation stood at 0.8 percent in January, far below the ECB's target of just under 2.0 percent. Draghi has admitted that the longer inflation stays at such low levels, the harder it will be to get it back up to that target.

Adam Lambert prepares for summer tour with *Queen*

From appearing in the reality show *American Idol* to fronting the rock band *Queen* on a US tour — Adam Lambert's career is on the rise

Since taking the runner-up spot in the eighth series of the popular US TV show, the singer songwriter has won international acclaim in many quarters with his rich tenor voice. His albums and single releases have brought him praise while his showmanship and theatrical style have become his signature during live performances. But he admits following in the footsteps of Freddie Mercury — regarded by many as the greatest rock band front-man — has not been easy.

"At first it was a little daunting when we did our first incarnation of this. I definitely felt apprehensive. Freddie Mercury is one of the greatest singers that ever lived, and he's a big idol for me, and I thought to myself, you know I hope that the fans dig this, you know, because there is a possibility that they wouldn't. And it felt really good. The reception was warm, the press reaction to it the first time was very warm," he said.

Replacing the man who created a special synergy with live audiences across the globe was always going to spark criticism. Original band members Roger Taylor and Brian May defender their choice saying they are happy with the new partnership.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

First anniversary of Pope Francis' church leadership

The Catholic church is marking the first anniversary of the election of Pope Francis

Experts say there has been a big change in the style of the papal leadership, with a shift towards less pomp and ceremony and a focus on the poor. But more progress is expected on key issues.

Robert Mickens, the Vatican correspondent for the international Catholic newspaper *The Tablet*, said, "I think there are probably two issues that the Pope is going to have to address. The first is the sexual abuse of children by priests. The Pope has been very quiet on this and I think people are looking for a response. And the second is the issue of women, because he has talked a lot about women having decision-making roles in the church and up until now



Believers greeting Pope Francis

he hasn't brought any woman into any significant place in the Vatican."

The Pope has appointed a committee of cardinals to look into reforming Vatican administration.

E.ON is latest to suffer from European power crisis

E.ON, Germany's largest utility, is to shut a quarter of its power plants and cut costs

It has also halved the dividend paid to shareholders for 2013 and said core profits this year will decline. Power generators across Europe have been taken by surprise by a surge in output from renewable energy sources,

mainly solar and wind.

That has made many gas and coal-fired thermal plants redundant and caused wholesale power prices to slump. Its profits jumped by more than a quarter in Britain, which it said was due to cold weather, not price hikes.



Protesters took to the streets of cities across the country

More clashes in Turkey as teenager's death sparks violence

Turkish riot police are braced for more unrest after a second day of clashes with anti-government demonstrators across the country

The violence erupted on Wednesday as mourners buried a teenager hurt in protests last summer, unrest which Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan branded as a plot against the state. Berkin Elvan's death after nine months in a coma sparked the trouble. Elvan, then aged 14, got caught up in street battles in Istanbul between police and protesters on June 16th while

going to buy bread for his family.

He became a rallying point for government opponents, who held vigils at the Istanbul hospital where he lay in intensive care from a head trauma believed to have been caused by a police tear gas canister.

Police fired water cannon, tear gas and rubber pellets on a major Istanbul avenue to stop tens of thousands of people chanting anti-government slogans from reaching the central Taksim Square. There were similar scenes in the centre of the capital Ankara and in the Aegean coastal city of Izmir.