

AFA FENCETECH/ NOMMA METALFAB

2024 IN REVIEW

By Vicki Jones, Editor

AFA Fencetech/Nomma MetalFab (Fencetech) 2024 was held in Nashville, Tenn. from Jan. 22-26, 2024. AFA reported that the total attendance for the annual fence, gate, and perimeter security trade show (including exhibitors and general attendees) was 7,519 people.

7,519 Attendees
Fencetech/MetalFab attendees (combined)

| Year | Attendee total |
|------|----------------|
| 2024 | 7,519 |
| 2023 | 4,601 |
| 2022 | 3000+ |



The trade show floor was bustling with people and the manufacturers' booths appeared to be filled with attendees. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. According to AFA President Michael Reed, "The opening Pickets and Picks event was an engaging opportunity to connect with colleagues." It also served as a great way to kick off the show.



Exhibit totals: 2022-2024

| Year | Exhibit total | Location |
|------|---------------|---------------|
| 2024 | 326 | Nashville |
| 2023 | 281 | Oklahoma City |
| 2022 | 240 | New Orleans |

326 Exhibits
Fencetech 2024 featured 326 exhibits representing the fence, gate, perimeter security, and ornamental and miscellaneous metals industries. The exhibitor total increased by 14% compared to the 2023 show in Oklahoma City and there was a nearly 30% increase from the 2022 show.

Nashville location — music to the ears
The convention city was conveniently situated within walking distance from most of Nashville's top hotels and only a couple blocks

away from Broadway Street, the heart of downtown.
After the show, attendees had the opportunity to experience some of what Nashville had to offer, such as renowned restaurants, festive music venues, and historic attractions.

Presentations, training, and education were on key
The AFA Keynote Presentation "The power of storytelling for your business" was presented by several expert musicians. The group shared how the art of storytelling, whether in music or business, can forge connections and customers.
The show also included a week of over 50 diverse educational sessions beginning with the Gate Automation Design School

continued on page 44





DASMA hosted a quiz-themed educational session inspired by Kahoot! The top three scorers won cash prizes.

continued from page 42

(GADS). The day-and-a-half-long course covered project design and configuration of an automated gate system, UL and ASTM standards, and more.

The Fencetech education sessions were categorized into one of four tracks: leadership, installation, sales, or business.

AFA said that the tracks were created to give attendees a better idea of the overarching themes available. "The education portion of the show featured multiple opportunities to learn something new from industry thought leaders," said Reed.

Other featured sessions included "The Fence Games," the "Women in fence" panel,

and DASMA's "Kahoot! Gate systems installers quiz show" session. In the latter, contestants competed by answering questions from the IDEA certification program for Automated Gate Systems Installers exam using their smartphones. The contestant with the most correct answers (in the quickest time) received \$150 cash. Additional prizes were also given to the second and third place winners.

Certification

AFA reported that 140 certification exams were administered for the various programs, including Certified Fence Contractor, Certified Gate Automation Designer, Certified Gate Automation Technician, and Certified Operations Manager. ■



Mark your calendar

Fencetech/MetalFab 2025
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