



EuroShop 2026 anniversary edition

The Journal



University of California Irvine celebrates 60M remodel at Tony and Daisy Café

Feb 24, 2026 Irvine, Calif. — More than 300 co-workers, including UCI Health President and CEO Chad Lefteris, and Chief Operating Officer Nathan Shinagawa recently came together to celebrate the grand opening of the Tony and Daisy Fan Family Café on the first floor of the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building in Irvine.

Those who attended the event had the opportunity to taste pastries and avocado toast from Seal Beach-based Crema Artisan Bakers, and coffee and matcha from Santa Ana-based Moongoat Coffee Roasters.

Shinagawa welcomed attendees and expressed his excitement that co-workers, patients and their families could now enjoy the variety of culinary and beverage offerings. He also spoke about the important role that nutrition plays in health and overall well-being.

“This café wouldn’t have been possible without strong community partnerships with Moongoat Coffee and Crema Artisan Bakers, known for their tasty beverages and pastries throughout Irvine,” said Shinagawa. “Food is core to the healing of our patients — it plays a fundamental role in rebuilding the strength of those going through cancer treatment, recovering from surgery and more.”



Custom Oscartek display at the café

Identifying and consuming food that tastes good, nourishes the body and supports the immune system is key to improving overall health. This approach is reflected in the both the patient and cafeteria menus at UCI Health — Orange, formerly known as UCI Medical Center, and soon, UCI Health — Irvine. Several nurses commented throughout the event that patients and their families would enjoy the café because of its nutritious menu items.

In addition to the coffee, tea and matcha, those in need of a quick snack or are looking to relax in a calming environment with an abundance of natural light can also enjoy fresh salads and fruit, sandwiches, hot cereal, parfaits, quiches and breakfast burritos.

Patients and visitors can also take advantage of ordering snacks, juice or an iced latte via a mobile app.

Smart Retail Practicality Emerges as Key Theme After EuroShop 2026

More than 81,000 visitors from 141 countries attended Euroshop, which ended yesterday. They gathered information about retail solutions from 1,840 exhibitors from 61 countries. According to the final report from Messe Düsseldorf, the world's leading trade fair for retail investment needs has thus underlined its claim to be a "global retail festival". Two-thirds of visitors came from abroad, with one in five from countries outside Europe. Visitor and exhibitor numbers are pretty much on a par with the previous Euroshop three years ago.



"Euroshop 2026 has impressively demonstrated that the retail sector is investing in its future – strategically, technology-driven and with a clear focus on efficiency and customer experience," summarizes Marius Berlemann, Managing Director of Messe Düsseldorf. "The international appeal, the enormous decision-making authority of the visitors and their concrete willingness to invest confirm how important Euroshop is as the industry's leading global trade fair." This year's focus was primarily on AI-based applications and checkout solutions, modern LED lighting systems and flexible shopfitting concepts.

"Euroshop not only highlights the key issues facing the retail sector, but also its great willingness to change," explains Ulrich Spaan, Managing Director of the EHI Retail Institute. "The retail sector is taking every opportunity to shape its future creatively and actively. AI and digital technologies, for example, are not only used to increase efficiency, but also to develop new business models and further improve the shopping experience."

The exhibitors are expressing their satisfaction. Here are two examples: "Euroshop 2026 has impressively demonstrated that the future of retail lies in the intelligent fusion of physical and digital touchpoints to create a seamless customer experience," says Rüdiger Eilers, Head of Marketing at OMS Retail, looking back on the five-day trade fair. "I was particularly impressed by how ESL technologies have evolved from simple price displays to comprehensive platforms for in-store navigation and process optimization. This development encourages us to support our customers not only with ESL implementation, but also with the entire digital transformation of their store processes."

And Jens Wolter, Senior Key Account Manager at ITAB Germany, says: "There was a great deal of interest from the DIY sector. In addition to self-checkout solutions for larger quantities of goods, the focus was primarily on digital product advisors and Lift'n'Learn. This allows customers to simply lift a product and receive the relevant information directly. Pick-up boxes for online orders and locker solutions for higher-priced products also met with great interest."

According to a recent LinkedIn post from AzZ Cust2Mate, the company is reflecting on themes from EuroShop 2026, a major retail trade fair that hosted more than 1,800 exhibitors and 81,000 visitors. The post highlights a clear shift in retailer focus away from experimental concepts toward solutions that demonstrably improve in-store operations and customer experience.

The company's LinkedIn post underscores interest in practical applications of smart shelves, electronic shelf labels, smart carts, AI tools, and advanced checkout systems, framed as tools to make stores "run smarter." This emphasis suggests that AzZ Cust2Mate is positioning its offerings within a broader industry move toward measurable operational efficiency and enhanced in-store journeys.

By directing readers to a blog outlining key takeaways and their implications for physical retail, the post indicates ongoing thought leadership efforts around the future of brick-and-mortar formats. For investors, this could imply that product development and go-to-market strategies may be aligned with concrete retailer ROI metrics, potentially supporting adoption rates and revenue visibility if the company's solutions match these priorities.

The focus on real-world utility over "shiny ideas" may also reflect a more disciplined spending environment among retailers, which can favor vendors whose technologies integrate smoothly into existing store workflows. If AzZ Cust2Mate's smart cart and related platforms are perceived as lowering labor costs, reducing friction at checkout, or driving higher basket sizes, the themes in this post could translate into a stronger competitive position within the smart retail and in-store automation segment.