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METPACK 2023 opens from 2 to 6 May

Most important meeting place for the international metal packaging industry

The next world's leading trade fair for metal packaging, METPACK, will be held at Messe Essen from May 2 to 6, 2023. After the past run was first postponed due to the effects of the Corona pandemic and then had to be cancelled, the global industry highlight is now reopening in the usual three-year cycle and parallel to interpack (May 4 to 10, 2023). In addition to packaging, the range of products presented by the more than 300 exhibitors at METPACK recently includes machinery and equipment for the production of cans, lids and bases, as well as filling and sealing systems. Interested exhibitors will soon find the application documents at [www.metpack.de](http://www.metpack.de).

"We are confident that METPACK 2023 can take place with its usual size and internationality. On the part of the exhibitors, we have recently experienced a lot of understanding and encouragement. The message was clear: The industry needs METPACK and would rather come back to Essen today than tomorrow. Due to the interpack taking place in Düsseldorf at the same time, we are again expecting considerable synergies with the visitors," says Oliver P. Kuhrt, Managing Director of Messe Essen. METPACK is the world's most important meeting place for the metal packaging industry. The trade fair visitors are for the most part decision-makers from the global food and chemical industry.

### **The can of tomorrow: flexible, lightweight and smart manufactured**

Since 1993, the industry has been presenting its impressive innovative strength in Essen. Messe Essen honors exhibitors of particularly outstanding and forward-looking products with the METPACK Innovation Award, the winners of which are announced during the show. Current trends will also be the subject of the METPACK Conference, at which representatives from industry and science will provide insights into the future of metal packaging. This is characterized, among other things, by more product variety, less material and networked production.

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## METPACK Conference Addresses Trends in the Metal Packaging Industry

Focus on Sustainability, Digitalization, Latest Findings from Science and Research as well as New Procedures

### **Focus on Sustainability, Digitalization, Latest Findings from Science and Research as well as New Procedures**

Behind modern packaging, there is no end of research and highly specialized technology: This year, more than 300 exhibitors will show that and much more at METPACK which will take place at Messe Essen for the tenth time already from May 5 to 9, 2020. At the world's leading fair, companies will present sustainable and cost-efficient solutions for the manufacture, refinement, lacquering and recycling of metal packaging. At the METPACK Conference on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, experts will discuss findings from the economic and scientific spheres. What will it look like, the future of metal packaging? Eight speakers will give insights into their working fields and provide information about topical subjects.

In his opening speech, Dr. Daniel Abramowicz, CTO of the US Canmaker Crown Holdings, will look at the growth drivers of the beverage can market and analyze the product performance on the basis of aspects such as sustainability and innovation character. Abramowicz will deal, in particular, with the progress due to optimized material utilization. Modern technology ensures that cans leave the production lines in diverse shapes and sizes nowadays. Abramowicz knows the figures and will put them into context: Appealing special sizes in combination with new printing installations which are taking over the appealing designing of the can - that raises the turnover. Moreover, the expert will deal with the image gain of the material due to recycling and will connect this with the image loss of the packaging competitor plastic.

In his lecture, Pascal Amelot, Commercial Director Packaging of ArcelorMittal Europe, will report on potentials for the further optimization of steel packaging. Today, cans are considerably lighter and thus more sustainable than just a few decades ago. Due to an increase in the hardness, packaging steel with a tensile strength of 700 MPa can be made available in the meantime. The industrial introduction of this modern material component requires quite a bit of retrofitting. What step follows next? Amelot will describe not only the challenge but also the chances behind steel as a packaging material.

### **Special Sheet Metal Printing Ensures More Product Diversity**

The company of Ralf Gumbel, CEO of Koenig & Bauer Metal Print, can look back on more than one hundred years of experience in sheet metal printing. Gumbel will give an insight behind the scenes: He will explain the functioning methods of complete decorating systems for both the two-piece and three-piece can markets. For example, Gumbel will introduce the CS MetalCan printing machine which is an answer to the market requirements for frequent decoration changes and more product diversity. Equipped with ten lacquering units and a large number of special modules such as plate changers and automatic rubber blanket changing systems, the machine is setting new standards in beverage can printing.

Neil Finley, Head of Global Food Safety, Product Safety & Regulatory Affairs of Henkel UK Operations, is also registered as a speaker at the METPACK Conference. Lacquer and raw material manufacturers are currently working on alternative coatings without BPA as the starting substance (BPA-non-intent (BPA?NI) coatings).

The lecture will focus on the risk assessment of BPA?NI coatings for metal packaging with food contact. By following internationally recognized principles and guidelines, it is possible to prove the safety of NIASs (non-intentionally added substances) in new coating technologies. The application of a strict risk assessment approach creates trust in the safety and sustainability of new coating technologies. Finley will discuss the challenges during the risk assessment, new approaches to proving the safety and improved communication.

Francesco Amati is the General Manager of the global player ASA headquartered in San Marino. He will describe the progress of the sector: from the newest development in offset printing right up to digital technologies. What is the best printing procedure? Amati is assuming that there are several answers to this in complex market situations with booming technologies. Thus, the expert will scrutinize whether it would be possible to combine the conventional technologies with the emerging ones. His lecture will address the integration of various procedures in order to extend the product portfolio.

Seaming is a joining technology for the assembly of sheet metal parts without an externally visible joint. In his lecture, Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Lieber, a researcher at the German Fraunhofer Institute for Machine Tools and Forming Technology (IWU), will provide information about the application of this procedure in can production. During the manufacture of food cans, particularly the closing technology for the can body and lid constitutes a challenge since the material is exposed to higher stresses at these points. In his lecture, Lieber will show very practical examples. These will include an FE simulation of seaming processes for wrinkle analysis. Moreover, Lieber will explain new findings for the measurement of the profile geometries of seaming tools.

### **How Expensive is Lacquering Allowed to be?**

Dr. Dimitrios Tsimpoukis, Managing Director of Chrotex from Greece, has made the costs of lacquering his subject and will deliberate on how these can be optimized. Against this background, he will introduce different concepts and their applications. What role does the quality of the can play? What properties does a good coating need? In order to calculate the costs, the specialist will take account of totally different items such as material or energy and correlate them. Tsimpoukis will consider the manufacturing operation in a holistic way: He will highlight the interplay between the lacquer properties which are required for high-quality can manufacture, modify them and explain the consequences which might result from certain compromises. In his lecture, Tsimpoukis will deal especially with the opacity of white lacquers. Moreover, the expert will analyze lacquer films in interplay with the mechanical properties of polymers according to the Kubelka-Munk theory which describes the light absorption and scattering properties of pigmented systems.

With regard to manufacture, Marcel Schoumacker, Director of Sales Europe, Middle East and Africa, will introduce a new achievement made by his company, the SLAC Group from China. Metal cans, particularly beverage cans, are usually manufactured from two parts using one procedure in which the base and wall of the can are formed from a single blank of a starting material. Such a procedure is known as drawing wall-ironing (DWI) procedure. The bodymaker forms the heart of the DWI technology. With the "Boxer", Schoumacker will now introduce a refinement of the machine which promises a higher efficiency. The Boxer produces two cans in a single stroke and has twice the capacity of conventional bodymakers. The company will exhibit the innovation at METPACK.