

**March 2012**

## **Alufoil Trophy 2012: New blister pack offers better protection to sensitive tablets**

An improved alu/alu blister has won an Alufoil Trophy 2012 in the Product Preservation category. Formpack® Dessiflex™ Plus, developed by Amcor Flexibles, is the latest version in this product range and offers new standards of moisture control for sensitive pharmaceutical tablets where shelf life and stability of the product are critical factors.

Previous versions of Formpack® offered a limited protection from cross diffusion, where a small quantity of moisture diffuses through the seal between the lidding and bottom foils.

“Often these products are highly sensitive as well as being very valuable,” said head of the judging panel Antoinette Devine, global packaging consultant for SABMiller. “This product shows exceptional improvements in product preservation in a particularly difficult area of pharmaceutical production and demonstrates how an existing idea can be taken to a new, higher level.”



By including the desiccant in the sealing layer of the cold-formed blister bottom foil the drying speed for tablets, which retain some moisture after processing, such as lyophilized or probiotic tablets, is reduced to a few hours or days – the higher the temperature the faster the reaction.

“We believe this is an important development to preserve valuable pharmaceuticals and are proud that this is recognised by the award of an Alufoil Trophy 2012,” said Andrea Della Torre, R&D pharma director at Amcor Flexibles. “The first generation Dessiflex™ was honoured five years ago with an Alufoil Trophy award. This new award is further recognition of our long history of innovation and our efforts to constantly offer better solutions to our customers,” he added.

Using co-extrusion coating, the desiccant compound and LDPE are coated on to the alufoil which is lacquer laminated to build a cold-formable Formpack® structure with Polyamide (oPA). An HDPE layer is the contact layer with the product, avoiding direct contact between the product and the desiccant. This layer complies with European Pharmacopoeia requirements.

A blue dye in the desiccant containing layer offers a clear contrast to the normally white tablet, enabling a safe product detection control via the inspection systems on blister lines.

The new Formpack® Dessiflex™ Plus can keep individual cavities dry, even in tropical conditions, for up to five years, according to Amcor Flexibles. This is well above the current requirement for a two year shelf life for such products.

**The Alufoil Trophy is organised by the European Aluminium Foil Association. There are five categories – Consumer Convenience, Marketing + Design, Product Preservation, Resource Efficiency and Technical Innovation. Judges also award Overall Excellence. For 2012 there were 13 winners from 52 entries.**

**High resolution pictures can be downloaded and all winning entries can be viewed at [www.alufoil.org](http://www.alufoil.org)**

### **Further information:**

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*The European Aluminium Foil Association is the international body representing companies engaged in the rolling and rewinding of alufoil and in the manufacture of alufoil containers and of all kind of flexible packaging. Its more than 100 members include companies in Western, Central and Eastern Europe.*