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Alufoil Trophy 2013: BPA and melamine free membrane with improved levels of performance

A new membrane from **Amcors Flexibles**, suitable for sealing any type of non-retortable cans, has won an Alufoil Trophy in the category of Technical Innovation. The **Alufix® Dry Smart** peel-off end membrane can be used for a large range of products, such as powdered infant formula, instant drinks, powders and snacks. According to the company, it offers a high level of efficiency on high speed sealing machines. Additionally the membrane features several environmental advances without loss of performance, it claims.



Head of judging, Professor Dr. Markus Prem, principal of the Department of Food Packaging Technology at the University of Applied Sciences Kempten, commented, "This is a major step forward in reducing the carbon footprint without any loss of performance or efficiency during production. The company has worked hard to overcome all the technical challenges and come up with a very well thought out and well executed product, showing alufoil at its best."

The membranes are BPA and melamine free and use a PVC-free heat seal lacquer, yet are designed to be sealed at high speed without modifying the machines. The particular challenge in the development of Alufix® Dry Smart was the conversion to a new solventless and PVC-free lacquering system while retaining the excellent mechanical properties of the membrane, such as burst-pressure, smooth peel and heat/temperature resistance - at competitive price level.

On hearing of the award Dr. Christoph Dietrich, product development engineer at Amcor Flexibles Europe & Americas said, "Winning an Alufoil Trophy for Alufix® Dry Smart, our latest innovation in the range of easy opening membranes for cans, is a great recognition for Amcor Flexibles. The membrane is the result of the close co-operation between the cross-functional Alufix® team, our supplier and our customers to help us anticipate market needs and deliver the best solution in terms of consumer convenience, safety and industrial efficiency. Moreover, the application of a solventless lacquering process allows us to reduce the carbon footprint of the Alufix® solution by nearly 10%."

Amcors Flexibles considers Alufix® Dry Smart to be significant progress in its overall effort to increase packaging convenience while reducing the carbon footprint of packaging materials. Also important was fulfilling the market requirements of eco-designed packaging, yet guaranteeing a safe closure of the can. The use of aluminium foil is a key element in providing the highest protection of the product, says the company.

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 gave Discretionary Awards. For 2013 there were 12 winners.

High resolution pictures can be downloaded and all winning entries can be viewed at 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 aluminium closures, alufoil semi-rigid containers and of all kind of flexible packaging. Its more than 100 members include companies in Western, Central and Eastern Europe.