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Alufoil Trophy 2013:

Blister pack with improved barrier properties uses less material

Ancor Flexibles has been awarded an Alufoil Trophy in the Resource Efficiency category for a major advance in its **Formpack®** blister pack. The **Advanced Blister Design** is based on an existing blister pack, but re-engineered in such a way that the material consumption has been reduced by more than 30% in volume, while improving the moisture protection of the drug by over 40%.



Professor Dr. Markus Prem, principal of the Department of Food Packaging Technology at the University of Applied Sciences Kempten, who chaired the panel of judges, said they were impressed by the very clear objectives and thorough design reappraisal, "There is a clear functional improvement of the pack through greatly enhanced moisture control, as well as a marked reduction in material use. To achieve this greatly enhanced performance with 30% less material is a major achievement."

The base foil is a multiple layer laminate of which the core is a 45µm thick alufoil. The special property of the laminate is that it is cold formable and provides, if properly processed, a complete barrier against moisture. The lid foil of the blister is made from alufoil of 25µm thickness, lacquered on both sides, which also provides a complete barrier against moisture.

Advanced developments in the design software allowed for an accurate simulation of moisture diffusion. In the previous blister design all cavities have the same level of humidity ingress due to the perforation lines, so are regarded by the simulation software as having four open sides. In the new blister design the perforations between the single cavities have been removed, so there is a significant difference between the corner cavity, in which humidity can diffuse from two sides, and the middle cavity which has only one edge. Also this has enabled six tablets, rather than the previous 4, to be packed in a blister with identical dimensions.

Andrea Della Torre, R&D Pharma director at Ancor Flexibles Europe & Americas, explained the significance of the award, "Ancor is particularly proud to receive this Alufoil Trophy as it recognizes our continuous effort in developing sustainable packaging solutions. Our customers acknowledge Ancor's commitment in this field and we are honoured that an independent panel of experts have now chosen to distinguish this product."

The latest Formpack® with Advanced Blister Design was launched in Italy during 2012 and will be introduced to other markets in Europe shortly.

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.