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New inhaler design incorporates alufoil blister strip for improved protection and performance

A new respiratory inhaler, from **Sandoz International**, for people suffering with asthma/COPD, using a specially designed alufoil blister strip developed by **Ancor Flexibles**, has won the coveted Alufoil Trophy 2015 in the Product Preservation category.



Ancor Flexibles were asked to design a blister strip to ensure a longer shelf life of the powder in the **AirFluSal® Forspiro®** inhaler. The strip protects the inhalation powder from moisture ingress and also improves performance during transportation and release of the powder from the cavity.

Head of the judging panel, Jean-Paul Duquet, global packaging eco design manager of Bel Group, explained what impressed them, "This is a complex device and all the components had to be carefully combined to achieve the required performance. It is clear that the protection of the active ingredient – a hygroscopic powder – is entirely due to the innovative use of the aluminium foil in the blister strip."

Dr Jan-Torsten Tews, global head business unit respiratory at Sandoz International said, "We are proud and delighted to accept the Alufoil Trophy for AirFluSal® Forspiro® in the Product Preservation category, together with our collaboration partner Ancor. This novel approach to improving the entire patient experience shows that true innovation in this field is not just about "frontline" design, but also about rethinking the whole packaging development process to optimize efficacy and quality."

Andrea Della Torre, R&D pharma director at Ancor Flexibles Europe and Americas commented, "We are particularly proud to have won this Award with our partner Sandoz. It emphasizes how an early and close collaboration in the packaging development process contributes to launching an innovative product for patients."

The powder is readied for release when the lid foil is pierced and then upon inhalation the airflow transports the powder out of the cavity through the holes. By using a novel seal layer between the Formpack® base and blister lid foil, Ancor has been able to reduce the potential for moisture ingress via cross-diffusion by 50%. The PVC seal layer is reduced from 100µm to 30µm, diminishing moisture ingress through the sealing seam.

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 an award for cross-category excellence. For 2015 there were 12 winners.

High resolution pictures can be downloaded and all winning entries can be viewed at www.alufoil.org

Further information:

Guido Aufdemkamp, Executive Director

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.