

Successful conclusion of 56th DORNBIERN-MFC with around 700 participants from over 30 nations



The 56th DORNBIERN-MFC congress concluded on a positive note with around 700 participants from over 30 nations. More than a hundred top-class international expert lectures from academic research and industry turn the event into something unique.

The approximate share of industry lectures is particularly high this year. Many interesting lectures were offered by Asia with a focal point on Japan, but also on China, Sri Lanka and Turkey. In addition to the excellent plenary speeches and expert lectures the congress has been completed with three more panels, a forum and a workshop.

Workshop

A workshop was organized one day before the opening of the congress, chaired by Syngroup Management Consulting, Austria's biggest industry consulting company focusing on "Circular

Economy: Textile and Nonwovens Waste – a threat or opportunity?"

This highly topical subject was studied by a group of experts drawn from the fiber industry and downstream manufacturing stages, trading firms and, for the first time, waste management companies. IKEA and Adidas were represented as renowned brands and the EU Commission was represented by a high-level representative at the workshop. This unique event was jointly organised by Dornbirm-MFC in cooperation with CIRFS (the European Man-made Fibres Association), EDANA (the association of the nonwovens industry) and ISWA (the global association of waste management companies).

Management Talk

A management talk on the opening day moderated by Walter Woitsch, Syngroup Management Consulting (A)

on the topic of "Marine Litter – a problem turned into an innovative opportunity." The participants included Philipp Meister, Adidas (D), Hugo-Maria Schally, EU Brussels (B), Celine Dolan, Indorama/Wellman (IR), Wilhelm Rauch, IVC (D), Robert van de Kerkhof, Lenzing (A) and Franz Josef Radermacher – University Ulm (D).

Panel discussions

The panel discussion on "Fibers, Textiles and Nonwovens for Sports and Leisure Wear" was moderated by Giuseppe Gherzi from Gherzi Consulting (CH) on the subject of "Sustainability and Performance – a discrepancy in this industry?"

The participants included Kate Riley, Adidas (D), Dieter Backhaus, Invista (D), Robert van de Kerkhof, Lenzing (A), Ranil Vitarana, MAS Holding (Sri Lanka) and Rene Bethmann, Vaude (D).



Another panel discussion on “Fibers, Textiles and Nonwovens for protective applications” was moderated by Isa Hofmann, IHOFMANN (D) on the subject of “The never-ending story of ultra- light and ingenious high performance features: What’s next?”

The participants included Giovanni Henssen, DSM (NL), Oliver Spöcker, Lenzing (A), Evelyne Orndoff, NASA (US), Pierluigi Berardi, Nilit (I), Helmuth Zepf, PBI (D) and Mike Stanhope, Tencate (US).

Young Scientist Forum

This year the Young Scientist Forum was held on the final day of the congress. The workshop was conducted by Walter Woitsch, Managing Partner of SYNGROUP, with a focus on “Impact of Digital (R)Evolution on Research & Development.”

Sponsors are the supporting pillars of the success of Dornbirn-MFC

Particularly noteworthy is the strong economic region Vorarlberg and its “smart city” Dornbirn which have been supporting the congress for 56 years. Cooperation with the province state of Vorarlberg and its Chamber of Commerce will be promoted with renewed impetus in the future.

Lenzing AG, the associations CIRFS and IVC act as initiators of the annual congress and EDANA, the European association of the nonwovens producers, again supports the congress as a sponsor.

Lenzing AG (A), the world’s leading and most innovative manufacturer of cellulose fibers has been the lead sponsor of the congress for many years. Lenzing AG is the innovation and technology leader and cooperates with the whole value chain down to the brands and retailers.

The German highly specialized polyester manufacturer, Märkische Faser, as well as Messe Frankfurt/AVANTEX join as main sponsors and boost its innovative strength.

Dornbirn-MFC network

Further renowned partners from the European fiber industry who acted as sponsors include: Advansa GmbH (D), Glanzstoff Industries GmbH (A), Dralon

GmbH (D), IFG Asota GmbH (A) and Fisipec (P).

The textile machinery producers and the chemical industry represented as sponsors included: CHT Beitlich GmbH (D), Groz Beckert KG (D), IKV Innovative Kunststoffveredelungs GmbH (D), SAURER AG (CH) and Oerlikon (D)

The innovation platforms such as Smart Textiles PLATTFORM (A) and the Linz University of Art (A) are meanwhile multi annual partners. The renowned Swiss textile consulting group, Gherzi Consulting (CH) and SYNGROUP (A) support the congress as well as essential sponsors. The innovation platforms ecoplus, Lower Austria’s Business Agency (A) and Saltex (A) complete the sponsors’ section.

Cooperation with the Community-Platform SALTEX in Dornbirn

Dornbirn-MFC supports SALTEX along with common advertising, taking place in September 2018, the Community-Platform for Smart Textiles and composite fabrics and their industrial automatisations. Further details are provided under www.saltex.at.

Cooperation with EDANA

EDANA represents more than 240 members as association along the value chain in the nonwovens industry which corresponds to a turnover of more than \$30 billion. EDANA, as co-organiser, supports the workshop on the issue of recycling on the day prior to the congress. www.edana.org

Partnership with Messe Frankfurt / Avantex

Avantex is the fair for Hi-Tec materials/fabrics for clothing which takes place twice a year in Paris. The synchronising of the two events – Dornbirn-MFC is held one week before Avantex – has proven its worth as participants from overseas may attend both events efficiently.

Partnership with Messe Frankfurt / Techtexil

Techttextil is the global leading trade fair for technical textiles and nonwovens and takes place biennially. The given lecture block by Dornbirn-MFC within the

Paul Schlack / Wilhelm Albrecht Prize

The Paul Schlack / Wilhelm Albrecht Prize 2017 was awarded to two employees of ITA, RWTH Aachen. Dr. Gisa Wortberg, ITA, RWTH Aachen (D): “Development of Polyethylene-based Precursors for Thermochemical Stabilisation for Carbon Fibre Production” and Dr. Andreas De Palmenaer, ITA, RWTH Aachen (D): “Determination of Process Parameters for Continuous Production of Polyethylene-Based Carbon Fibre”.

scope of the Techttextil Symposium in Frankfurt was a great success.

High Level of Internationalisation and rebranding of the Dornbirn Congress

International participants from over 30 countries took part at the congress. Great interest from the USA, Japan, Korea and China is represented by a delegation of more than 20 people.

In recent years the efforts to strengthen the congress with more international lectures and international participants have paid off. The Dornbirn Congress has evolved into a global brand.

In the future the congress will also include natural fibers in order to exploit the ultimate innovation possibilities. The congress will continue to keep its European roots and Dornbirn will remain in the center. However, attempts will be made to market the congress outside Europe mainly in cooperation with partners. Also the logo has been re-designed but Dornbirn will be recognized easily. The name “Austrian Man-Made Fibers Institute” has been changed to “Austrian Fibers Institute.”

The 57th edition of Dornbirn Congress will be held from September 12 to 14, 2018. The following main topics will be discussed next year:

- ❖ Fiber Innovations.
- ❖ Transport and Mobility.
- ❖ Recycling.
- ❖ Energy Storage.
- ❖ Surface Modification and Additives.
- ❖ Additive-Technologies.

The presentation proposals can be sent to the Austrian Fibers Institute for 2018 at office@austrian-mfi.at (working title, short summary and contact data). ♦