



connecting comPETence

www.petnology.com

Contact:
Barbara Appel

PETnology GmbH
Tel.: +49 (0)941 870 23 74
Fax: +49 (0)941 870 23 73
b.appel@petnology.com

Press release

Regensburg, 12.06.2006

PETnology Europe 2006 - Review

Connecting comPETence – a strong concept for a strong industry

Under the motto “PET Strategies: Technology, Markets and Marketing”, PETnology GmbH organized the 8th PETnology Conference on 8th and 9th May 2006 in Munich. Around 240 experts and top managers from the PET packaging and drinks industry convened to share ideas at the extensive, market and technology oriented conference.

PETnology Europe 2006 asserted its claim of being the leading European PET packaging conference of international importance. 90% of participants came from other European and non-European countries.

PETnology GmbH did justice to its motto “connecting comPETence” in every aspect. PETnology Europe 2006 presented proven technologies, innovations and highlights on a modern high-level information and communication platform. The accompanying workshops and the rising number of exhibitors particularly promoted the conference’s much-appreciated networking aspect. Above all, the presentations on state-of-the-art technology and processes and the summit meeting of the drinks and packaging industry provided first-hand information and opinions.

Connecting comPETence

For the first time this year, PETnology Europe started with a panel discussion, the “summit meeting of the packaging and drinks industry”, where important players from leading companies in the drinks and packaging industry, brand owners and plant engineering and packaging companies met. The participants of the “summit meeting” were:

Amcor PET Packaging, Mr C. Jansen
Beiersdorf AG, Mr U Löhr
Bericap; Mr G Krautkrämer
GfK Panel Service, Mr G Birnbaum
Krones AG; Mr V Kronseder
Noem AG, Mr J Simon
Wesergold; Mr F Driessen

The panel discussed innovations in product development and their importance for trade and consumers, as well as trends in plant design (filling, bottle and preform production) as well as the requirements and challenges of global competition for machine manufacturers, packaging producers and bottlers. The audience showed great interest in the discussion.

Responding to consumer trends quickly and accurately

The first session after the “summit meeting” on “Consumer and PET market trends” confirmed that quick and accurate response to consumer trends is becoming more and more important for the packaging industry. Günter Birnbaum of GfK Panel Services Deutschland GmbH, Dr. Anne Roulin of Nestlé Product Technology Centre, Christoph Hümmler of Georg Menshen GmbH & Co. KG and Dr. Thomas Probst of bvse discussed trends in the drinks and food industry as well as the resulting challenges for PET in general, and PET packaging, closure technology and recycling in particular.

Barrier – a constant challenge in the PET packaging market

The demand for improved barriers continues to be strong. Dr. Karsten Fritsch of INVISTA Resins & Fibers GmbH, Stefan Bock of Netstal-Maschinen AG, Mark Frost of ColorMatrix Europe Ltd. and Hans Werink of Holland Colours discussed the issue and reported on the latest results and developments in the use and the processing of barrier materials and additives. The discussion showed that – while new barrier materials and additives can help open new market segments, they may have an impact on recyclability and on frictional resistance, which could change closure properties. Standards could provide a solution to the problem.

An additional barrier workshop held by Dirk Binkowski of the Institute for Plastic Processing provided basic knowledge and information on the various coating technologies in use today.

The options of modern packaging and closure developments for products such as milk or milk-based drinks were shown by Jan Arnaut of CATIE, Peter Lloyd of R&D Tool & Engineering Ltd, Paola Tamagnone of PET Engineering srl and Henning von Spreckelsen of Bapco Closures.

PET Strategies

The session on “Industry trends and PET strategies” took a closer look at the preform business, which is subject to enormous cost pressure. Dr. Brigitta Otto and Stefan Deiss of Zimmer AG as well as Alex Chubikin of Retal Industries discussed the technical options and strategies for a successful future in this business area. Zimmer AG talked about plant designs for the direct production of preforms and BOPET foils using polycondensation, describing the quality of materials and the cost advantages of this technology in detail. The lively discussion showed that despite the advantages of this technology, establishing it in the market will not be easy.

Alternative materials from renewable resources

Almost all participants in the value added chain were concerned with the highly topical issue of renewable resources. The potential and the processing of alternative materials from renewable resources was widely discussed, such as PLA for general packaging application and in injection and blowmolding at Atussa Sarvestani, NNZ the packaging network; Michael Urquhart of Husky Injection Molding Systems and Matthias Gernhuber of SIG Corpoplast described the technology in their presentations.

Aseptic – compact and flexible

The session on aseptic filling was opened by Britta Faul-Burbes of SIG Asbofill/SIG Combibloc GmbH, followed by Manfred Michl of KHS AG and Franck Geincheleau of Serac. While Ms Faul-Burbes presented the Asbofill linear aseptic filling line with integrated aseptic capper for plastic closures, Mr Michl described the sterilization of plastic containers and the “carton bottle” and filling with non-carbonated drinks on one machine using the Jordy Pack System.

Flexibility and Performance

Andreas Reich of Arburg GmbH + Co. KG, Jean-Marc Moriggia of MAG and Sven Muregard of Sidel were the speakers in the “Injection Molding, Blow Molding, Coating” session which concentrated on the machine engineering aspects of PET packaging. Both Arburg and MAG-Plastics-Machinery have been concentrating on flexibility and the production of small packaging sizes. Sven Muregard of Sidel discussed Actis coating technology for high speed applications. The Actis Lite technology achieves an output of 40,000 bottles per hour for carbonated soft drink applications. The development of Actis 48 has led to a reduction of operating costs between 20 and 40% compared with Actis 20.

Recycling – efficient and compact

Frank Semersky of Plastic Technologies, Inc. and Dr. Thomas Friedlaender of Kronos AG reported on the latest technologies and strategies in PET bottle recycling. The session was completed by the presentation of Rudolf Graf of the Pelletron Corporation, MoMaTech GmbH which talked about avoiding and removing dust from new and recycling material. In addition, there were two recycling workshops, led by Elfriede Hell of Starlinger und Manfred Hackl of Erema, respectively.

After PETnology Europe 2006, Kronos AG invited participants to an Open House event at their Neutraubling site on 10th May.

In his closing words, Dr. Otto Appel thanked all the speakers for their excellent presentations and announced the next two PETnology Forums, on 30th and 31st October 2006 in Shanghai, and on 27th and 28th March 2007 in Munich.

The conference documentation including a CD with all the presentations is available in English from PETnology GmbH (www.petnology.com) at the price of EUR 395 plus V.A.T.