

Press Release September 2018

57. DORNBIRN GLOBAL FIBER CONGRESS (Dornbirn-GFC)
12 - 14 September 2018, AUSTRIA
Communicating Fiber Innovations

“DORNBIRN-GFC is the world`s best place to come to learn“

We proudly announce this CEO`s statement who is leading the world`s biggest fiber producer and who has been a frequent participant at the Dornbirn-GFC for many years.

Paul Schlack/Wilhelm Albrecht Awarding 2018

The Paul Schlack / Wilhelm Albrecht Prize 2018 was awarded to following innovative projects: Dr. Alexander Weise, RWTH Aachen, ITA convinced the jury with his project **“*development of graphene modified multifilaments for the construction of textile electrical storage*”**

and Dr. Christoph Rieger, DITF/ITV Denkendorf convinced with his project, **“*development of a manufacturing system for high temperature stable meltblown nonwovens and their characteristics*”**.

Expert lectures could convince!

More than a 100 high qualitative international lectures from academy and industry highlighted the congress. Beside the presentations the audience had the possibility to ask specific questions and therefore the topics were discussed in a practical way. Also this year the share of lectures from the industry was about 50%. Next to Europe, a lot of interesting lectures were presented from Japan, China, Taiwan, India, USA, Canada and Turkey.

High internationality of the Dornbirn-GFC Congress

More than 700 participants from over 30 nations took part. About 70% from Europe and 35 % from Asia and the USA took advantage of the Dornbirn-GFC in order to learn about the latest innovations of the fiber industry and its downstream stages.

Smart Textiles Symposium

The cooperation and synergy with the symposium being held at the same time in Dornbirn was very successful. Participants of the Dornbirn-GFC could listen to the high quality lectures at the symposium free of charge.

New Congress-App for Dornbirn-GFC

The participants may use a new congress-app for the first time. This app should improve the communication and information during the congress.

The participants have the possibility to be informed on the presentation and lecturer in advance. Further the aspect of networking is of great interest. All Dornbirn-GFC participants will be linked together with the app and may get in contact with each other.

Top-class Plenary Lectures on the Opening Day

Sebastian Kurz, the Austrian Federal Chancellor, could be won to open this year`s congress. His presentation via a video transmission brought important topics and aspects as well as future issues for our branch on the point.

Furthermore, the interview with James Holbery from Microsoft US on the issue of “How will Smart Textiles change the world and what does Microsoft expect from industry?” was very enlightening. His keynote at the “Smart Textiles Symposium”
Smart Textiles in the age of digitization – an enormous potential for textile industry!

As a connoisseur of the automotive industry, Prof. Theo Sams from **AVL List**, the world`s biggest independent company for the development of drive systems, illuminated the “relevance and potentials of the fiber industry in the future development of the automotive industry”.

The successful, rapidly growing Canadian brand **Lululemon Athletica**, represented by Yogendra Dandapure, provided forward-looking trends and the technology approach for the industry and he finally took part at the panel discussion “Circular Economy”.

Edwin Keh, CEO of the international renowned Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel HKRITA, gave a lecture on “Circular Economy” and also participated at the subsequent panel discussion.

HKRITA cooperates closely with the big brands like H&M and is also a frequent medalist of the “Geneva International Annual Invention Awards”.

CEO Panel on the Opening Day – an absolute highlight!

The board members and CEOs discussed **lively and with different views** on **sustainability** and how the big European and Asian fiber producers position themselves to the **“3 Ps – Planet, People, Profit”**.

Necat Altin/**Zorlu**, Stefan Braun/**Dralon**, Uday Gill/**Indorama**, Robert van de Kerkhof/**Lenzing** and Gunjan Sharma/**Reliance** led by Walter Woitsch/**Syngroup Consulting**.

Expert Panel “Circular Economy“

After the highly interesting lecture block on “Circular Economy” a panel discussion took place:

“Circular Economy – What an Opportunity!”, moderated by the expert of sustainability, Reiner Hengstmann.

The participants Eberhard Brack/**Märkische Faser**, Peter Bartsch/**Lenzing**, Michael Chtepa/**Sequal4U**, Yogendra Dandapure/**Lululemon**, Edwin Keh/**HKRITA**, Luis Marinheiro/**ISWA** (International Solid and Waste Association) demonstrated high commitment and approaches to the current topic, strongly promoted by the EU Commission.

Young Scientist Forum – already for the 3rd time

The topic “Digital Age in Research and Development“ was deepened in a workshop by young scientists on September 11, 2018 guided by Syngroup Consulting (AUT). The participation of **Microsoft** was extremely valuable.

The subsequent visit of the congress integrated the next generation into the network of the “Dornbirn-GFC innovation community.

Networking Event on the Final Day

In order to support the networking of the participants a special get-together in a relaxed atmosphere was provided. Next to the Kulturhaus the Mohrenbräu offered a nice conclusion of the congress – Know-how exchange in a different light!

Sponsors as the key elements of the success of the Dornbirn-GFC

Particular emphasis was placed on the economic region Land Vorarlberg and the “smart city“ Dornbirn which have tremendously supported the congress since its foundation. The cooperation with the federal state Vorarlberg has been expanded in recent years.

Lenzing AG, the associations CIRFS (European Fiber Association) and IVC (German Fiber Association) are the initiators of this annual congress.

Lenzing AG, the world`s largest and most innovative cellulose fiber producer – this impressive company with high innovative power was presented as “the“ lead sponsor of the congress.

The renowned sponsors of the previous years have also contributed to the success of the congress:

- ADVANSA (GER)
- AVANTEX/Messe Frankfurt France (FRA)
- CHT Beitlich (GER)
- CIRFS (BEL)
- Dralon (GER)
- Ecoplus. Niederösterreichs Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH (AUT)
- EDANA (BEL)
- Gherzi Textil Organisation (SUI)
- Glanzstoff Industries/Indorama (AUT)
- Groz Beckert (GER)
- IFG Asota (AUT)
- IKV Innovative Kunststoffveredelung (GER)
- Indorama Ventures (THA)
- Kunstuniversität Linz (AUT)
- Land Vorarlberg (AUT)
- Lenzing AG (AUT)
- Märkische Faser (GER)
- Oerlikon Manmade Fibers (GER)
- Perlon Nextrusion Monofil (GER)
- PHP Fibers/Indorama (GER)
- Saurer AG (SUI)
- Smart Textiles Platform (AUT)
- TECHTEXTIL/Messe Frankfurt (GER)

- Stadt Dornbirn (AUT)
- SYNGROUP (AUT)
- WISTO – Wirtschaftsstandort Vorarlberg GmbH (AUT)
- WKO Wirtschaftskammer Vorarlberg (AUT)

Cooperation with EDANA

The synergies of the network of EDANA and Dornbirn-GFC enhanced the innovative strength of the participants.

As association EDANA represents more than 240 members along the value chain in the nonwovens industry which corresponds to a turnover of more than \$ 30 billion.

www.edana.org

Partnership with Messe Frankfurt / Avantex Paris

Avantex is the fair for Hi-Tec materials/fabrics for clothing which takes place twice a year in Paris. The timing of the 2 events – Dornbirn-GFC is a week before Avantex – has worked effectively because attendees from overseas may visit both events.

“Fashion and Research links together“ is the guiding principle of the cooperation. Hi-Tec fabrics and forward looking topics were presented to a large audience and the press in Paris – Dornbirn-GFC and the “Dornbirn-GFC Community” act as idea generator for the development of the Hi-Tec products.

www.fr.messefrankfurt.com/paris/en/besucher/welcome

Partnership with Messe Frankfurt / Tectextil

Tectextil is the global leading trade fair for technical textiles and nonwovens and takes place in Frankfurt and other cities in the world biennially.

The next event from May 14 to May 17, 2019 in Frankfurt - “Merger of Research and the market place Trade Fair” is the motto of the cooperation. Common support for innovative clients with new concepts are predominant.

Outlook for the 58. Dornbirn-GFC Congress, 11 - 13 September, 2019

Following main topics will be discussed in next year:

- Fiber Innovations
- Circular Economy

- Digitization in the Fiber and Textile Industry
- Surface Modification and Additives
- Home Textiles
- Sports and Leisure Wear
- Smart Textiles
- Nonwovens

We offer you the opportunity to submit your presentation proposals for 2019 to the Austrian Fiber Institute already now: office@dornbirn-gfc.com.

(working title, short summary and contact details).

We look forward on your participation in next year.

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