



Society of Plastics Engineers
European Thermoforming Division
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Press Release

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8th European Thermoforming Conference in Venice (Italy), April 26th - 27th 2012

“Overall, an excellent conference”

The European Thermoforming industry's main event of the year, the 8th European Thermoforming Conference, was recently held in Venice and the two days of expert presentations and workshops managed to attract many of the industry's experts to attend

The biennial conferences are proving to be the most important platform for leading business decision makers, suppliers and technologists to meet, network and to discuss the latest developments within the thermoforming industry. It is agreed that they are fast becoming the major international forums for technological advancement within our sector.

The unique and beautiful City of Venice provided an outstanding venue for the event, which attracted nearly 200 attendees.

A combination of excellent technical presentations, discussion workshops and an exhibition of associated technologies which ran in parallel, all contributed to ensure the event was relevant and informative to the international participants.

This year's subjects presented by industry experts were again comprehensive and all-encompassing, covering advancements in terms of the materials and processes technology.

The discussion workshops focussed on the subjects of “Transformation within Plastics Packaging”, “Handle the Output of Thin Wall Production” and “Mechanical Fixation / New Bonding Techniques in Thick Gauge Applications”.

The Thermoforming **Parts Competition** attracted a diverse range of entries which offered the visitors a unique insight of how innovative product design combined with modern materials and processes can produce inspirational structural, cosmetic and highly functional parts. There were several examples of how thermoformed parts can support demands in completely new market sectors.

The winners of this year's **Parts Competition** were:

Heavy Gauge Automotive

Winner: Company Walter Pack (Spain).

Part: Window for Renault Twizy.

Jury's motivation: "Winner due to processing highly complex polycarbonate sheet material free from moisture and dust contamination on an industrial scale which requires high level of processing control, careful logistic management and well designed tooling. A light weight innovative product in a demanding environment"

Heavy Gauge Non-Automotive.

Winner: Company Solera Thermoform Group (Italy).

Part: Long Chair Avus.

Jury's motivation: "Winner due to originality of design, clever use of cosmetic materials, and an excellent example of a high performing light weight structure produced using the twin sheet processing technology"

Thin Gauge

Winner: Company Generation Tech (France).

Part: Paint Tray multi-layer.

Jury's motivation: "Winner due to thermoforming 5 layers simultaneously, also using recycled material; the product is not only environmentally friendly, but also potentially opens up new application areas for the thermoforming industry.

The Thermoforming Parts Competition Award goes to outstanding and innovative designs or processes in the field of thermoformed components.

The next European Thermoforming Conference is scheduled to take place in April 2014.

Information about the conference may be obtained from Yetty Pauwels / Society of Plastics Engineers / European Thermoforming Division – ETD
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