

Winning entries demonstrate the best of aluminium foil in multiple applications

— *Alufoil Trophy 2020 winners once again show the wide range of applications and uses to which this truly flexible material can be successfully applied.*

As the most important competition for innovation and performing excellence in the sector, the Alufoil Trophy, this year, attracted a very diverse range of products across the five categories.

From the purely marketing to purely engineering, and including outstanding environmental responsibility, every aspect of aluminium foil was scrutinised by the judges, who were headed by Veith Behrmann, Group Packaging Manager for Nestlé Nespresso.

Commenting on the overall results Behrmann said, “Aluminium foil is a very multi-talented material and the entries in this year’s Alufoil Trophy showed just how clever innovators are at coming up with fresh ideas. In particular we were impressed by the potential for some of these products to be applied to wider markets.”

“We felt two entries, one packaging and one automotive application, were so worthy of recognition, that special awards for Innovative Use of



Aluminium Foil were given. A special gas bag made from an alufoil laminate, in a new suspension system for Mercedes Benz, plus a range of reusable dining plates to replace disposable

plastic and paper ones, show just why aluminium foil is so special and has such strong innovation potential,” he added. /// See all winners on pages 2-3

Continuing trade turbulence holds back European aluminium foil deliveries

The European aluminium foil sector saw a slowdown in demand for its products during 2019, particularly in domestic markets. But the total tonnage delivered, 933,056 tonnes, represents only a small 1% drop compared with the record levels of 2018 (942,496t), according to the latest figures released by the European Aluminium Foil Association (EAFA).

Total European deliveries declined 3.1% to 781,320 tonnes while exports showed more resilience, ending 11.4% up at 151,736 tonnes overall. However Q4 figures saw overseas demand down 16.7% with domestic orders seeing a fall of 2% on 2018.

Production of thinner gauges, mainly used for flexible packaging and household foils, ended down 2.6% for the year, and thicker gauges, typically used for semi-rigid containers, technical or other applications, continued to put in a strong performance, finishing the year 2% ahead. ///

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Alufoil Trophy 2020 – the winners

/// Technical Innovation

New sidewall embossing for smaller containers



Constantia Flexibles: 3D sidewall-embossing for Alufoilcontainer

Constantia Flexibles won for its novel 3D sidewall embossing technology. This enables the introduction of branding or messages on smaller aluminium foil portion packs without having to print, as well as offering both optic and haptic differentiation. Forming is achieved in a single step, in-line process, during vertical deep drawing. This required the development of special tool parts as well as modifications to the sidewall angles of the containers. ///

/// Marketing + Design

The perfect mix of modern and traditional materials

Guala Closures Group received the award for its Savin Prestige range of aluminium screwcap closures. The concept consists of combining a closure made with an aluminium shell together with a top insert made of a different material, such as wood or fabric, to enhance its aesthetics and create original and eclectic combinations. The concept can be applied to standard aluminium closures for wine and spirits and allows the creation of a personal style or customization of the closure. ///



Guala Closures Group: Savin Prestige

/// Consumer Convenience

Easy pouring lid system boosts convenience



Constantia Flexibles: EasyDoseLid by Constantia Flexibles

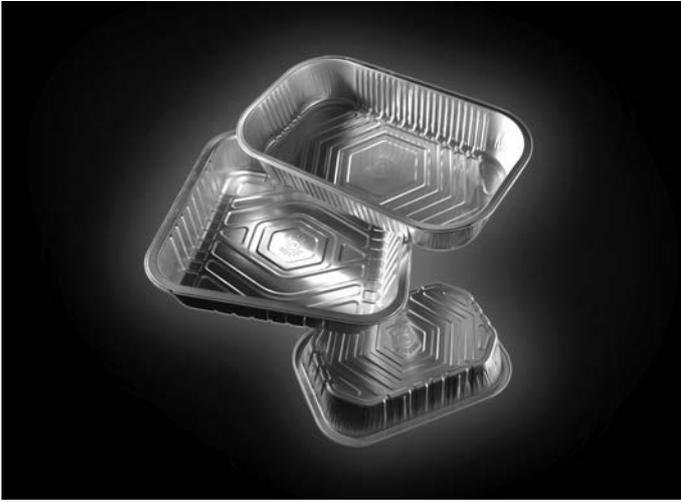
The EasyDoseLid from **Constantia Flexibles** received an award for its lidding system, designed for solid consumer food products stored in liquids, such as mozzarella cheese, pickled cheese, pickles and olives, which become easily separable from the liquid thanks to this novel pouring system. A double layer of aluminium and a co-extruded plastic, with special laser cutting, enables the liquid to be poured out before the solid content is dispensed. ///



Alufoil Trophy 2020 – the winners

/// Resource Efficiency

Radical redesign and responsible sourcing for resource efficiency



i2r Packaging Solutions: 12r Ultra

i2r Packaging Solutions gained an award for its Ultra™, an innovative, smoothwall aluminium foil container, intended for packaging high quality 'ready to cook' convenience products including red meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, BBQ food and desserts. Three key design features were applied to add a significant amount of additional structural strength and an overall reduction in pack weight. ///

A joint development with the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) organization, Nespresso and selected mining corporations has won **Amcor** an award for an ASI aluminium coffee capsule, which will be marketed by Nespresso. The capsule uses ASI certified aluminium to improve the sustainability position of both product and brand. The initiative creates a chain of custody as the whole process needs to be certified and can set a standard for the whole industry. ///



Amcor: ASI aluminium for coffee capsules

/// Innovative Use of Aluminium Foil

Innovative engineering and food service solutions are top performers

Wipf has received an Alufoil Trophy on its work to develop a totally new suspension system, with its aluminium foil Gasbag for E-Active Body Control technology, for Mercedes-Benz's latest GLE model. The system, which incorporates the gasbag, influences the lift and yaw of the car body when cornering, accelerating and braking. The gasbag features a layer of high-density aluminium foil and several layers of various polyamide films. The aluminium assures very high impermeability to gas while preserving mechanical, thermal, and chemical stability in hydraulic fluid. ///



Wipf: Gasbag for E-Active Body Control



Contital: Aluminium Plates

Contital won this prize for the introduction of a range of recyclable 'aluminium plates' as a credible and economic alternative to disposable dining plates which are non-recyclable. The patented product range has been developed with specific technical characteristics to ensure strength despite the low thickness and to withstand the stress of transportation, sealing and storage, as well as heating and freezing. ///

Sustainability

Telling the story of aluminium foil in packaging

Why is aluminium foil great for packaging? A new infographic, released by the European Aluminium Foil Association (EAFA), has the answers! The infographic covers the three main benefits of aluminium foil in packaging: as a highly effective material with unique properties, its great resource efficiency and its contribution to a circular economy. In turn, each of these themes highlights clearly, in words and pictures, key elements of the story.

So aluminium foil's unique physical properties and barrier performances are shown, together with its variable formats and applications.

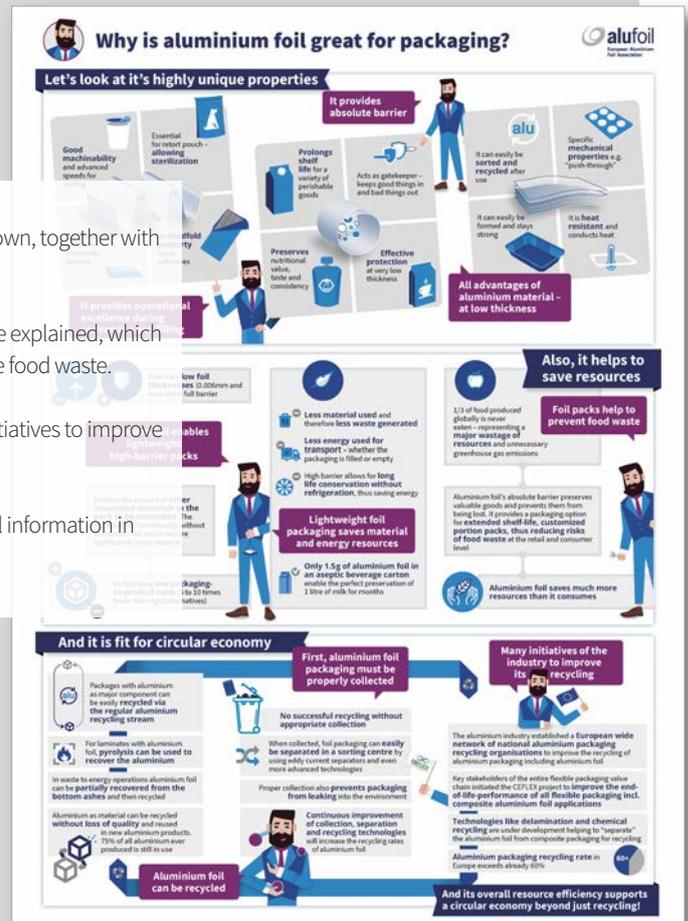
Next its lightweight advantages while maintaining a high barrier performance are explained, which saves both material and energy resources and, at the same time, helps to reduce food waste.

Lastly the need for proper collection is emphasised, as are the many industry initiatives to improve its recycling and so recover as much aluminium material as possible.

The infographic comes in a simple one-page format and can be used for internal information in workplaces, or as an educational tool, says the Association.

EAFA's intention is to provide an educational tool to explain the value aluminium foil brings to the packaging sector and highlight the key reasons for that. The infographic has been designed for a broad and varied audience – younger people, to show why foil is used so extensively, while, at the same time, explaining to factory staff and others the positive technical, environmental and commercial aspects of this material.

Aluminium foil is very fit for a circular economy, both in terms of ability and performance, according to EAFA. Aluminium is highly recyclable without loss of quality. Plus the industry, through many initiatives across Europe, is working continuously on improving the collection and recycling of packaging containing aluminium foil. ///



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We look forward to continuing to provide you with news, trends and interesting facts about the world of aluminium foil!