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New foil laminate offers stick pack format to sensitive medicines

A new laminate from **Amcors Flexibles**, which enables sensitive pharmaceuticals to be packed in stick packs, has scooped an Alufoil Trophy 2018 in the Resource Efficiency category. **PolyInert Laminates for Stick Packs** is a multilayer barrier laminate with aluminium foil that has a contact layer specifically developed with low scalping properties. This improves the shelf life of the product as well as helping to reduce both the pack size and its carbon footprint, according to the company.



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The judging panel for the Alufoil Trophy, which comprises leading industry specialists, felt this development had a significant impact on both the product and the packs environmental performance. “This barrier laminate can handle highly sensitive pharmaceuticals in both powder and liquid format. Plus, it delivers a huge saving in material use and energy consumed in making the pack. It ticks all the boxes for Resource Efficiency.”

Other advantages of PolyInert include that it can be sandwich or surface printed for information, marketing or to include anti-counterfeiting measures, claims Amcor. But the reduction in pack size, compared with traditional formats such as sachets, can achieve as much as 40% materials savings, reduce non-renewable primary energy by 30% and water consumption by 39%, in addition to the 30% saved on the carbon footprint.

“This trophy in the Resource Efficiency category reflects our commitment to help our customers reach their sustainability goals,” said Andrea Della Torre, Senior Director R&D at Amcor Flexibles Europe, Middle East and Africa. “We implemented our PolyInert technology in stick pack format, thus achieving an improved environmental performance compared to a conventional 4-side seal sachet. Our continuous development of new materials and how these can contribute to better and more sustainable packaging is a high priority of our sustainability agenda,” he added.

A major breakthrough is that using the new laminate containing aluminium foil, not traditional plastics, minimises the interaction between the drug and the film. So, the active pharmaceutical ingredient in a volatile drug does not become absorbed in the contact layer. This greatly improves the efficacy and shelf life of the product, saving yet more valuable resources.

The Alufoil Trophy is organised by the European Aluminium Foil Association. There are five categories – Consumer Convenience, Marketing + Design, Product Protection, Resource Efficiency and Technical Innovation. For the Alufoil Trophy 2018 there were ten winners.

High-resolution pictures can be downloaded and all winning entries can be viewed at www.trophy.alufoil.org

Further information: Henning Grimm, Manager Communications & Global Relations
communications@alufoil.org

The European Aluminium Foil Association is the international body representing companies engaged in the rolling and rewinding of alufoil and in the manufacture of aluminium closures, alufoil semi-rigid containers and of all kind of flexible packaging. Its more than 100 members include companies in Western, Central and Eastern Europe.
www.alufoil.org