



Technical Conference Management  
Dr. Kurt Fischer KG

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Congress for the Worldwide Surfaces Industry:**

### European Laminates Conference 2012

**Subtitle: The international laminate industry met in Hamburg, Germany, from 21-22 March.**

**Langenzersdorf, 4 April 2012** – The European Laminates Conference 2012 held in Hamburg, Germany, marked the ten-year anniversary of this series of events and welcomed 165 participants from all over the world. The meeting was opened with a review of previous events organized in Europe, Asia and North America.

This year's conference was endorsed by 15 sponsors – DTS Systemoberflächen, Süddekor, SAPPI Warren, Bürkle, KapStone Paper, Kotkamills, Hymmen, DuPont, Cristal Global, Impress, Pöyry, Chemisol, Coldenhove Papier, OCI Melamine and Surface & Panel Magazine.

In the first presentation, traditionally given by Pöyry Management Consulting, Tomi Hartikainen spoke about current market trends, followed by Leonid Barash's overview of the laminate industry in Russia.

Additional technical presentations were given by Rico Emmler, IHD Dresden (test methods for HPL) and Jens Fandrey, Kleiberit (high gloss finishing of melamine coated wood panels).

The following two speakers Yannick Dewilde of Cristal Global and Volker Schmitt of Kronos dealt with a highly topical issue – the use of titanium dioxide in décor papers.

The afternoon session was dedicated to digital printing. In the first presentation Jordi Reichert of Hymmen talked about the development of radiation cured printing on melamine impregnated décor papers. The next speaker, Simon Daplyn of Xenxia Technology, gave numerous examples from other industries to illustrate the great potential of digital printing for décor surfaces. In the final presentation of day one, Richard Darling of Xaar talked about the advances made in the construction of inkjet printheads.

The traditional conference dinner was held at the Parlament Restaurant below Hamburg's town hall, where the organizer presented the guest of honour, quasi as a birthday present to mark the conference's anniversary: The inventor of the laminate floor, Darko Pervan, received long and enthusiastic applause after giving a thirty-minute presentation and answering numerous questions about the past and the future of laminate flooring.

The morning session of day two was marked by a new topic. In a series of three presentations, the standardization of décor papers was discussed from the perspective of a paper manufacturer (Lothar Lichtenthäler, Köhler Decor Papers), a décor printer (Matthias Otting, Süddekor) and a board manufacturer (Claus Raschka, Pfleiderer).

Subsequently, Klaus Hofmann, the European representative of Arclin, talked about the benefits of OSB surfaces. In the final presentation Kenn Busch of Material Intelligence gave an overview of global material trends in décor surfaces.

The afternoon session presented an entirely new concept: The matchmaker programme gave participants the opportunity to arrange meetings with other participants. Attendees welcomed this new design and spent many hours with lively discussions in almost fifty appointments.

Before closing the meeting, the organizer announced its upcoming events: The Decorative Surfaces Conference will be held from 17 to 19 October 2012 in Orlando and from 12 to 13 March 2013 in Berlin.

**Images of the event can be found on our conference website:**

[www.laminates-conference.com](http://www.laminates-conference.com).

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**Further Information:**

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About Technical Conference Management:

Technical Conference Management was founded in January 2000 by Kurt Fischer and Claudia Fischer-Ballia with the aim of hosting and organizing scientific and technical conferences worldwide. The current focus is on the wood-processing industry and the decor industry.