

High-level and informative:**European Aluminium Congress: “Technologies for the Aluminium Industry”**

The European Aluminium Congress on the subject “Technologies for the Aluminium Industry” organized by the GDA and held on 22 and 23 November 2011 in the Düsseldorf Maritim Hotel was a resounding success. With a total of around 150 participants, the congress was well attended.

What innovative technologies do the suppliers to the aluminium industry have to offer? Will new methods, processes or developments in materials open up new markets for aluminium? Which trends can be observed? These and more questions were discussed by the top field of speakers with the participating experts from the national and international aluminium industry. Included among the participants were representatives from smelters and foundries, processors of semi-finished products, as well as from research organizations.

The international English language congress offered suppliers and technology partners of the aluminium producing and processing industry a comprehensive platform to present and discuss their new developments. In his keynote address, Oliver Bell, Vice President of GDA and Executive Vice President Rolled Products of Norsk Hydro ASA stated that “aluminium is the solution of the future”. The demands on the technology partners and suppliers of the aluminium industry will continue to increase. In addition to the supply of the machinery and plants the branch demands a thorough understanding of processes as well comprehensive systems expertise for all stages of the aluminium value added chain, ranging from production to processing, right to recycling.

The congress was divided into a total of six sessions. These sessions were dedicated to the subject areas of application oriented process technologies, machinery and plant engineering, heat treatment technologies, software and simulation, recycling and melting technologies, and measurement, control and sensor technologies. Notable speakers from international companies offered information and real-life examples in all the sessions of the congress. Among others the speakers included Axel Bauer of SMS Meer, who talked in the session on machinery and plant engineering about extrusion presses for large scale profiles. Gaspar Fernandez Roldán of GIA Clecim Press, and Christoph Deiters of Gerhardt Alutechnik described the European cooperation of both companies in the construction of a new extrusion press. R. Neukant und W.F. Sommer of Achenbach Buschhütten described new developments in aluminium strip rolling technology. Dr. Dan Dragulin of Belte AG presented a new generation of heat treatment systems for aluminium components. The Institute of Forming Technology and Lightweight Construction (IUL) of the TU Dortmund informed their audience about the simulation of burrs on extrusion press profiles.

A variety of detailed information on the different topics was presented in an exhibition accompanying the congress, and companies in the branch presented process and supply technologies for the aluminium industry.

Those interested can order directly at GDA a recording of the European Aluminium Congress at a price of 179.00 euros plus 7.50 euros packaging fee and VAT.

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