

October EFIBCA open meeting in Vienna....

EFIBCA, the European Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container Association, is holding an open meeting in Vienna on 14 October to which both members and non-members are welcome. The venue is Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof Wien and the meeting is directed at the whole FIBC supply chain. It will offer an opportunity for networking and to stay up-to-date with latest technical, legal and economic developments in the international bulk bag business.

The conference will include presentations on various FIBC topics such as polypropylene prices, FIBC

testing, hygiene, dangerous goods regulations and normalisation.

Presentations will include:

- 'Polypropylene 2010: a new era begins', by Mike Smith, CMAI Europe.
- 'Requirements on cargo securing regarding FIBCs' by Wolfgang Neumann, EUROSAFE.
- 'UV tests: theory versus practice', by Cees van Teylingen, Atlas MTT.
- 'Current developments in dangerous goods regulation and normalisation' by Maxence Wittebolle, IBE-BVI.
- 'Specific aspects of FIBC testing' by Dr Herbert Kielbassa, Labordata.
- 'Hygiene standards for packaging

materials: comparison between BRC/loP and EN 15593', by Johannes Bergmair, OFI

Dr Amir Samadijavan, current president of EFIBCA, and Christoph Bornhorn from the EFIBCA Secretariat which is based in Bad Homburg, Germany, will between them outline the Association's revised terms of reference and future new strategy. Membership is open to all FIBC



EFIBCA president Dr Amir Samadijavan

manufacturers and traders acting on the European market. Companies and

organisations with an interest in the aims of EFIBCA are eligible to become associate members. Participation at the conference is free of charge.

On 15 October delegates are invited to attend an open house day at the nearby Weissenbach premises of Starlinger, for which a free bus service is provided. Starlinger, an EFIBCA member, is a world leader in the production of textile machines for most categories of flexible industrial packaging, including FIBCs. It also manufactures recycling machines.

Further details concerning both days are available from Christoph Bornhorn (tel: +49 6172 926655; secretariat@efibca.com).

www.efibca.com

... while FIBCA convenes November conference

Meanwhile three weeks later on the other side of the Atlantic FIBCA, the equivalent North American association, will be holding its Fall Conference at the InterContinental Montelucia Hotel, Scottsdale, Arizona, 4-6 November.

The event will include committee work sessions covering topics such as environmental and sustainable packaging and UV weathering. There will be early evening networking receptions on the first two days and, in a new development, FIBCA's board of directors has selected the first group of industry pioneers who will be acknowledged at the meeting and awarded an honorary lifetime membership of the Association.

One of the highlights of the conference will be an inter-active session conducted by Ken Beyersdorf, a certified Dale Carnegie training instructor and president of Premier



Training, Inc, who will give advice on building and retaining successful customer relations. Successful organisations recognise that customer satisfaction stems from a series of interconnected causes and disciplines, and that customer loyalty drives profitability and growth.

There will also be table top displays outside the main conference hall where FIBCA associate members will have the opportunity to exhibit products and services relating to the bulk bag industry. On the last day there is a choice between participating in a golf tournament or taking part in a Jeep tour through the nearby Sonoran Desert. Apart from the final day's entertainment, attendance at the

conference is free of charge.

The Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container Association was formed in 1983 with the purpose of providing a united voice for the industry. Regular membership, which is restricted to manufacturers, distributors and importers of FIBCs, requires that the member company should have a permanent place of business within the United States, Canada or Mexico. Associate members, which include suppliers of fabric, webbing, allied equipment and other related services, are not required to have an office in North America and are welcome from any country.

Further information about membership and the November conference is available from FIBCA executive director Lewis Anderson (tel: 866 600 8880; lewis.anderson@fibca.com).

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A previous EFIBCA open meeting at Düsseldorf in April 2008