AMI’s Cables conference celebrates its 20th Anniversary!

AMI, Bristol, United Kingdom, 27th January 2020 - In just over a month, the top players from across the entire cable supply chain will be discussing the latest trends and developments at Cables 2020, AMI’s 20th annual Cables conference. With the demand for cables continuously growing this is a must attend event taking place on 3-5 March 2020 at the Crown Plaza in Düsseldorf, Germany.

The growth of the cable industry continues to be strongly affected by key investment sectors such as infrastructure, construction and transportation. While the increasing requirements on cables’ technical performance, together with a move towards renewable energies, e-mobility and digitalisation continue to shape the future of this industry. Overall, the current market environment creates opportunities and challenges throughout this high demanding industry, and it is essential for the companies involved to be aware of the latest developments in markets, materials, testing, regulation, process technologies and end-use applications.

This year’s Cables conference consists of a two days programme and will kick off as usual with a market information overview. Ms. Cristina de Santos, AMI CONSULTING, will give insights into the European cable market from a global perspective. As the industry’s future is ever more electrified and digitalised, the second presentation from PRYSMIAN GROUP will identify innovation drivers for the future of energy and telecommunications. Dr. Srinivas Siripurapu, Chief Research & Development Officer will share with the attendees what the future global cable market looks like from the viewpoint of a cable manufacturer. To close the first session, Mr. Didier Naert, Global Plasticizer Technical Advisor at EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL EUROPE will present a plasticizer selection strategy for wire & cable applications.

Looking at trends and drivers for enhanced cable performance, telecommunication and power cables are the key segments within the cables industry. Starting the second session, Mr. Michael Heinz, Materials Development Engineer at CORNING OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS, will be covering the increasing bandwidth demand and the technical trends in the fibre optic cable networks, while Mr. Detlef Wald, Owner of EIFELKABEL will give an overview on thermoplastic materials for power cable insulation with a special focus on polypropylene. Even if the European CPR regulation has already been in place for a while, it continues to have an impact on the cable industry and a cable maker’s guide to the CPR will be presented by Mrs. Esther Hild, Legal Advisor (CCI) and Senior Expert Environment at ZVEI GERMANY CABLE MAKERS ASSOCIATION. She will underline the important steps towards increased safety in case of fire by using low fire-hazard cables, the most important driver behind the CPR regulation.

A whole session of Cables 2020 focuses on the growing demand of new cable materials for advanced fire safety solutions. Ms. Dinghua Li coming all the way from BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY will share the latest results of her study on flame retardant EVA nanocomposites in wire and cable applications. Low smoke being one of the key requirements in flame retardant cable constructions, Dr. Diego Tirelli from NUOVA SIMA S.r.l will present new opportunities for milled ATH to be used in PVC formulations. Finally, Dr. Günter Beyer, CEO – Consultant at FIRE & POLYMER, will introduce halloysite nanoclay as a new flame-retardant additive for cable compounds.

High performance specialties are often the solution to fulfil the continuously increasing technical requirements on cable performance. Some of these new opportunities will be presented during the conference fourth session. Mr. Fabio Morelli will introduce new flame retardant TPUs, developed by LUBRIZOL ADVANCED MATERIALS, to meet VDE and UL requirements and Mr. Frank Zelder, EVONIK RESOURCE EFFICIENCY GmbH, will demonstrate the performance of new polyamide grade developments for high-end cable constructions. The third presentation by Mr. Leo Nijhof, Technical Development Manager at NOURYON will review the characteristics of the most important peroxides and will focus on the specific types most frequently used to manufacture silicone rubber cables. With the performance enhancement of electrical solutions requiring higher temperature resistance and more
sustainable solutions at the same time, conductivity is becoming an increasingly important topic. To conclude Day 1, Mrs. Maryline Desseix, Global Technology Manager at POLYONE will highlight the various requirements, approaches and the effect on fluoropolymers conductivity.

One of the consequences of the continuously growing need for more technically demanding cables is the fact that modern cable compounds often require extreme content levels of fillers and additives. Commonly used compounding concepts are reaching their limits, in particular when low material temperatures, high additive filling limits, perfect homogenization and melt pressure build-up are required simultaneously. Therefore, Mr. Andreas Holt, Senior Business Consultant at THEYSOHN EXTRUSIONSTECHNIK GmbH, will start Day 2 by sharing with the audience ways to overcome those limitations using an innovative processing technology based on the combination of co-rotating and counter-rotating twin screw extruders. The second presentation of the day will be given by Mr. Maurice Alphonso, Technical Director at PLEXCHEM TECHNOLOGIES, who will discuss the merits of using UV as a crosslinking method for polyethylene, focusing on the crosslinking of flame-retardant cable compounds. Dr. François Loviat, Head of Process Technology and Test Centre at BUSS AG will present a new and innovative one-step impregnation process avoiding the solid-state peroxide soaking of the current state of the art technology. This presentation will describe this novel process as well as an EHV XLPE compound assessment produced from the same process.

Growing awareness of environmental and sustainable issues is another key trend having an impact on the cables industry. Dr. José M. Baldasano, Professor of Environmental Engineering at the TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA (UPC) will review the energy consumption and CO2 emission associated with the life cycle of PVC, XLPE and PE low voltage electrical cables. While Mr. Gianluca Sarti, PVC FORUM ITALIA, will compare performance of old and new compounds for PVC cables and smoke acidity. Dr. Vít Plaček, Head of Radiation Chemistry & Environmental Qualification Department, ÚJV ŘEŽ, A.S., will present the cable ageing management programme in nuclear power plants with the main benefit to help maximizing cable service life while optimizing the resources needed for monitoring purposes.

AMI’s 20th Cables conference will conclude with a session during which expert speakers will introduce advanced cable manufacturing solutions using new materials or processes. Mr. Manel Miret and Mr. Eric Xirinachs from DELTA TECNIC, will introduce a special range of masterbatches based on PE or EVA for the halogen free flame-retardant cable industry with improved dilution. As in any other industry, cost reduction is key to guarantee competitiveness and the cable industry continues to look for new ways of improving efficiency and productivity. Hence, Mr. Markus F. Kemmler, Managing Director at KEMMLER CONSULTING GmbH, will introduce a new cost-efficient cable marking technology representing a unique fingerprint to trace information on the cable constructions. Processing of halogen free flame retardants on co-rotating twin screw extruders is the topic of Mr. Christopher Helms, Head of Process Department at LEISTRITZ EXTRUSIONSTECHNIK GmbH. His presentation will focus on processing challenges and how to solve them with highly engineered turnkey solutions. Finally, the conference will be closed by a presentation from ZUMBACH ELECTRONIC AG. Mr. Mauro Consonni will talk about various measuring solutions that can be used during cable production to enhance product quality as well as to increase material savings.

More details can be found of the conference webpages.

For more information on attending or exhibiting at this event, contact Camille Lemercier, the conference organiser at camille.lemercier@ami.international or by calling +44 117 314 8111.

-ENDS-

Notes to editor:
For further information, comment or to arrange an interview please contact:
Camille Lemercier, Conference Organiser
T / +44 (0) 117 314 8111
E / camille.lemercier@ami.international

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