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Alufoil Trophy 2007

High Praise for Low Seal Lidding

A technical milestone in low temperature sealing won an Alufoil Trophy 2007 for Constantia-Teich. Its innovative Low Seal Lidding developed in conjunction with Unilever Food Europe for margarine containers offers real advantages in the production process.



Entered for Unilever Food Europe's margarine range, the Low Seal Lidding provides a tight and peelable seal on PP and PS containers at significantly lower temperatures than were previously possible – 1500C compared with more than 2000C.

Kraft Foods' Director Packaging Global Technology and Quality International and the Alufoil Trophy Jury's Head Judge David Smith, described the product as "an innovation that offers very interesting savings in the production process and eliminates a potential customer and consumer 'dissatisfier'".

To achieve the low temperature seal properties a co-extrusion coating of selected polymers replaces the normally used lacquered sealing layer. Low Seal Lidding can be printed conventionally in rotogravure and flexo but can also be printed using UV-flexo technology. The result is an attractive alufoil-based lidding that eliminates the risk of shrinkage of the sealing area which can lead to badly fitting snap-on lids.

The use of foil-based lidding with a minimised temperature input during the sealing step ensures both preservation of the product and excellent product appearance as the risk of product melting during the sealing process is eliminated.

Constantia-Teich's Head of Research & Development Dr Martin Kornfeld said, "Winning an Alufoil Trophy 2007 rewards the development team for its hard work in developing a real technical advance in low temperature sealing technology."

The European Aluminium Foil Association is the international body representing companies engaged in the rolling and rewinding of alufoil and in the manufacture of alufoil containers and of all kind of flexible packaging. Its more than 120 members include companies in Western, Central and Eastern Europe.

High resolution pictures are available at www.alufoil.org as well as a list of all entries.

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