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Alufoil Trophy 2011: Novel development is sealed to perfection

SealLite® an innovative direct sealing system, which uses alufoil to produce an easy open lid to replace a steel ring pull end for cans, won an Alufoil Trophy 2011 for **ArdaghGroup** in the Product Preservation category.

Used for dried food products the novel lid is produced by cutting out a pre-shaped membrane from a coil of laminated alufoil, while at the same time the upper edge and the pin of the shaped can is being heated. The foil lid is then sealed directly onto the necked cans and sent to the customer where they are filled and closed upside down. When filled and stacked, pressure is applied only to the outside rounded seam; no force is exerted on the SealLite® membrane.



The design of the gas proof SealLite® lid increases fill volume for the product and the inside pressure stabilises the sealed surface. Alufoil's preservation characteristics offer an optimal shelf-life for the contents by ensuring that the product is protected from outside influences such as oxygen, light, moisture and contamination. There is no need for a plastic over cap and the round rim of the can ensures safety when opening and handling.

The consumer opens the lid by pushing the membrane where indicated and then pulls leaving no alufoil residue inside the can. Opening instructions can be printed or embossed on the lid, and both the SealLite® lid and can are printable in up to 6 colours.

SealLite® is the result of several years of research and joint development between ArdaghGroup's metal can business and machinery supplier Gebrüder Leonhard GmbH & Co KG Blema Kircheis, experts in sealing equipment.

“This technically clever solution works effectively and also creates significant material and weight savings,” said head judge Alan Moffat, Packaging Development Manager, H. J. Heinz R&D.

Resource efficiency savings include full recyclability of all components while the weight of the can and lid are 35% lower compared with a traditional version with steel ring pull end. This contributes to lower CO2 emissions.

“Winning an Alufoil Trophy means SealLite® lid is another great innovation for enhanced consumer convenience and reduced environmental impact. We see this development as the new benchmark for the industry,” stated Hans-Jürgen Giesen, Plant Manager, ArdaghGroup Erfstadt.

SealLite® lids are available in 80/83mm on a necked can diameter of 99mm. Prospective markets include tea and coffee, candy, nuts and other snacks, rice, and milk powders.

- Alufoil Trophy 2011 is organised by the European Aluminium Foil Association. There are five categories – **Consumer Convenience; Design + Marketing; Product Preservation; Resource Efficiency; and Technical Innovation**. Judges also award **Cross-category Excellence** winners. For 2011 there were 13 winners from 66 entries.
- High resolution pictures can be downloaded and all winning entries can be viewed at www.alufoil.org
- The winning packs will be display at interpack 2011, Dusseldorf – May 12-18 2011

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 100 members include companies in Western, Central and Eastern Europe.

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