

Annual Conference – Krakow, 12 – 13 April 2018

Speakers' Biographies



Bart J. ten Brink, President of Europur

Bart is currently Strategic Advisor at the FoamPartner Group. He worked more than 27 years in the worldwide PU industry of which the last 8.5 years as CEO of the FoamPartner Group. Bart has been Member of the Board of Europur since 2009, where he took up the role as President since January 2015. Bart qualified in Logistics Engineering from the Tilburg VAT Academy and took an Executive Management Program in International Management in 2014 by Stanford University, run in Singapore.



Jean-Charles Cointot

Jean-Charles joined IBM in 2003 after a career of entrepreneur of more than 15 years during which he created or participated to the creation of businesses mainly in NTICs for the Telecom market. At IBM, he specialised in Digital Transformation of some major French and international accounts. Today he works more particularly on the contribution of Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Systems to Corporate Business Models and Business Sectors.



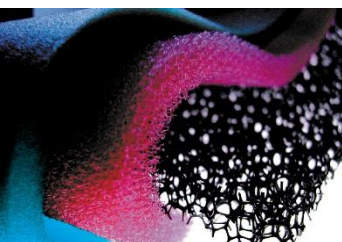
Simon Robinson, Editor, Urethanes Technology International

Simon graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University with a BSc (Hons) Polymer Science and Technology in 1987. He went directly into business journalism as Assistant Technical Editor for Urethanes Technology and European Rubber Journal. Simon has spent the last 30 years writing, blogging, podcasting and presenting videos about different aspects of the global polymer and petrochemicals industry for a number of publishers.



Jakub Piekarz, Senior IT Manager, Dendro Poland

Jakub graduated in Physics in 2007. Always interested in IT, he has a 15 year experience in the field and joined Dendro Poland in 2009 as IT manager. He is responsible for both the standard IT support of the company and for the team of software developers, which he has been developing since 2010. Dendro, a foam mattress production company located in Poland, is one of the main suppliers of foam mattresses for IKEA.





Francisco Pineda Munne, Operations Director, Pikolin

Francisco studied engineering at the Polytechnic University of Catalunya. After finishing his degree, he moved to the UK to work on design and development of automotive airbags. In 1992, he joined Vicktor Achter GmbH, a company that was later taken over by Milliken and Co, with the goal to start its airbag division, serving in the position of Business Manager. In 2009, he joined Pikolin SL as Industrial Director, promoting to Operations Director in 2014.



Jan Henrik Leisse, CEO, Bäumer

Jan has been the CEO of Albrecht Bäumer GmbH & Co. KG since 2013. In particular, he is responsible for Sales, Engineering, R&D and Production for the whole range of equipment for foam processing. After his graduation in civil engineering at Siegen University, he studied further finance and general management at the WHU Otto Beisheim School of Management. Prior to joining Albrecht Bäumer GmbH & Co. KG in 2013, he held a number of positions as a business consultant and in corporate development.



Karsten Malsch, Program Lead Digital, Covestro

Karsten has been Program Lead Digital at Covestro with special responsibility for Covestro's global Digital Customer Journey initiative since January 2017 and has worked for Covestro and Bayer for the past 19 years. Born in 1966, Malsch studied chemistry and economics at Cologne University. After graduating, he went on to obtain a PhD in chemistry.



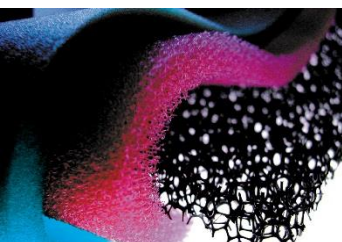
Angela Austin, Executive Director, Labyrinth Research and Markets

Angela has over twenty years of management consultancy and industry experience in the polyurethane industry, mainly as an Associate Director with IAL Consultants of London. She regularly has requests to present papers on the market dynamics of the polyurethanes industry and has done so at several international conferences. She is currently Director of Labyrinth Research & Markets Ltd, a market research and communications company she founded in 2010.



Russ Batson, Executive Director, Polyurethane Foam Association

Russell is an attorney and association executive with deep experience in the plastics and home furnishings industries. With the American Home Furnishings Alliance, he was instrumental in helping shape the federal rulemaking on upholstered furniture flammability. Following that, he advised SABIC on regulatory threats and opportunities. Batson holds bachelor and law degrees from the University of Virginia.





Michael Crowell, Executive Director, Alliance for Flexible PU Foam (USA)

Michael has more than 40 years of senior management experience in the polyurethane foam industry, including technical, manufacturing, sales and marketing positions. He is the Executive Director of the Alliance for Flexible Polyurethane Foam and its CertiPUR-US® programme since July 2014.



Ben Hammersley

Ben is a thought-provoking futurist who has been lecturing to audiences around the globe for over 15 years. He brings a practical, proactive approach to the digital era, inspiring audiences to be present now to be prepared for the future. As an international reporter, author and adventure seeker, Hammersley explores the effects of the internet and the digital network on the world's business, political and social atmospheres.



Hamdy Khalil, Global Technical Director for R&D, Woodbridge Group

Hamdy is the Senior Global Director for Advanced Technologies and Innovation at Woodbridge Foam Corporation. He has been with the company for 23 years. Prior to Woodbridge, he held senior technical positions with BF Goodrich and Polysar Corporation. He is on the Board of Director of three Institutions and member of the advisory Committees of Universities and National Institutions. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Guelph.



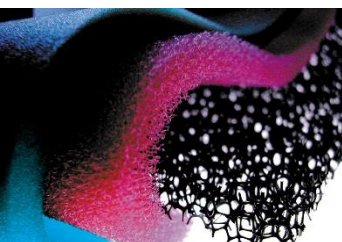
Dieter Holtkamp, Holtkamp Air Quality Improvement

Dieter graduated in physics and earned his PhD from the University of Muenster. For more than 25 years, he worked in various business units with a global player in the chemical industry, BAYER MaterialScience. Since 2013, he has been working in consultancy, project support and trainings in the field of (Vehicle) Indoor Air Quality.



Steven Chu, Chief Marketing Officer, Wansheng Co. Ltd

Steven is the Chief Marketing Officer of Wansheng Co Ltd, a public listed company at Shanghai Stock Exchange, China. In addition, Steven also works as a consultant to USA reputed companies for sourcing chemicals from China polyurethane additives, organo metals, pharma chemistry etc.), thus building up deep industrial knowledge on Chinese chemical industries and players, especially in the PU industry.





Stephan Wendel, Global Technology Manager Flexible Molded Foam, Evonik

Stephan studied chemistry at the RWTH Aachen University and at the Max-Planck-Institute at Mülheim/Ruhr. In 1986, he received his Ph.D. in homogenous catalysis. After working at Bayer AG, he joined Air Products in 1995. After two years in application technology for nanotechnology, he took over responsibility as Technical Manager for application development and technical service for polyurethane in Europe in 2008. Since 2017, he is responsible for automotive applications as Global Technology Manager at Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH.



Michel Baumgartner, Secretary General, Europur & Euro-Moulders

Michel spent most of his career representing trade associations of various industries in Brussels, notably in the construction equipment and automotive supply chain. He became Secretary General of Europur & Euro-Moulders in November 2013. He holds a degree in political science with a specialisation in European law.



Thomas Ellsner, Director Application CBRNE, Bruker Daltonik

Thomas got his PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Leipzig. He is author of several patents and numerous scientific publications in protein chemistry and microbiology. In 2002, he joined Bruker Daltonics, as project manager in the R&D group at the Bioanalytics Department. In 2009, he changed to the CBRNE application department of Bruker Daltonics and took over the responsibility for the development of biological detection equipment. Moreover, since 2010, he is the Director of the CBRNE Application department.



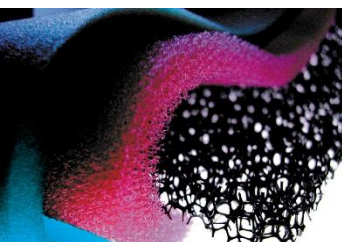
Kamil Marjanek, Owner/CEO, Foamax

Kamil has been working in the fire protection industry since 2007. In 2009, he became the Director of the Installation Department in one of the companies dealing with fire protection. Since 2012, he has been the owner of FOAMAX. As the only company in Europe, it has been granted exclusive rights to the distribution of fire-extinguishing equipment and foam products, from the international company Tyco Fire Protection Products. He has completed many investments throughout the country, as well as abroad.



José Miguel Palao, Production Director, Interplasp

His educational background includes a degree in Business Management by the University of Wales. After his degree, he proceeded in the PU industry, scaling positions in the company. At the same time, he enhanced his knowledge in fields such as marketing strategies, social behavior and leadership skills. Passionate about his job, the moment he saw how foam is produced, he got trapped by the magic of this chemical reaction. He has over twenty years experience in foam production.





Adam Pajonk, Dorothee Clasen and Sascha Praet, University of Applied Sciences, Münster

Adam, Dorothee and Sascha are students at the University of Applied Sciences in Münster. They will present the InFoam Printing project, a novel technological approach enabling the controlled variation of soft foam properties through a computer controlled injection process. This process makes it possible to create defined structures within a soft foam and thereby determine the material behaviour.



Adri Aerts, Technical Director, Vita Technical Foams

Adri is the Technical Manager of Vita Cellular Foams. Holding a Master of Science, Adri has over 28 years of experience in the PU foam industry. He has also for many years been the Chair of EUROPUR's Product Stewardship & Impurities Working Group, leading discussions on issues of key importance for good product stewardship in the flexible polyurethane foam industry.



Silvia Freni Sterrantino, Regulatory Affairs Officer, Europur

Silvia is EU Regulatory Affairs Manager at Europur and EuPC, the European Association of Plastic Converters. Before her current position, she worked as an attorney in leading international law firms and in the Directorate-General for Competition of the European Commission. Admitted to the Italian Bar Association as qualified attorney, she studied law at the universities of Siena, Cambridge and London, where she earned a LL.M. at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Dirk-Endres Hein, Leader PU Technology, R&D and Process Technology, F.S. Fehrer Automotive & Chair of the Technical Committee

Dirk-Endres Hein hold a Ph.D. in Chemistry. He started his "Polyurethane Life" in the early 90s at the R&D Department of an automotive interior parts supplier, starting first with a focus on slabstock technology. After switching to moulded flexible foam in 2002, he joined Fehrer Automotive, where he leads the Polyurethane R&D department and the Center of excellence "Polyurethane Technology" for the whole Fehrer group. He is also the Chair of EURO-MOULDERS' Technical Committee.



Jörg Palmersheim, Secretary General, ISOPA

Jörg became Secretary General of ISOPA and ALIPA on 1 January 2013. He also serves as member of various Management Committees of Polyurethane Downstream Associations and chairs the Global PU Trade Association Working Group. Before joining ISOPA & ALIPA, Jörg spent his career with Covestro, previous known as BAYER MaterialScience in various functions.

**We thank the sponsor of our conference
dinner:**

