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**Afera's 4th Technical Seminar
Set to be Largest Ever
European Tape Industry Event**

**Environmental Legislation & Innovation
Top Programme**

The Hague, The Netherlands, 18 January 2008

Afera, the European Association for the Self Adhesive Tape Industry, has announced that it will host the 4th Afera Technical Seminar **9th–11th April 2008, at the Brussels Marriott Hotel** in the city centre. Following the enormous success of the first three seminars, Afera's 2008 Technical Seminar is expected to attract the industry's highest number of attendees at a single event to date. Open to all tape industry professionals, the 3-day TS is **aimed at updating industry professionals on the cutting-edge technical issues driving the pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) industry.**

Afera's TS programme includes presentations of **22 papers**, 25 minutes each, by technical experts from distinguished tape industry companies, suppliers, universities and organisations, as well as a 40-minute panel discussion forum following each half-day session.

By popular demand, **environmental topics** covering the **European Chemicals Policy, air quality** and other EU legislative issues important to the tape industry highlight the agenda. The Secretary-General of the European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG), Belgium, plans to present "**VOCs and Solvent-Related Air Quality**

Issues", while M. Roessing of Evonik Goldschmidt GmbH, Germany, will lecture on "**Legislation: Driving Force for New Additive Development**". Two other environmentally-gearred presentations will cover "**REACH and Its Consequences for Tape-Making**" (Paul Verspoor, Sitmae Consultancy, The Netherlands) and "**Emissions Requirements and Their Impact on Adhesives and Self-Adhesive Products**" (H. Schönfeld, Sika Automotive GmbH, Germany).

The remaining 18 topics of the TS focus on the **latest technical advancements** in tape development, including innovations in adhesives properties, processing and applications in order to promote performance, quality and efficiency, as well as broad and optimal use, of PSA solutions. To mention a few: "**Electrically Conductive Acrylic PSAs**" will be covered by ChemCycle Bitterfeld's R. Milker (et al), Germany, while "**Wet-Out: The Red Herring of Adhesion Science**" will be presented by Dr. E. Smit of National Starch & Chemical BV, The Netherlands. A lecture on "**State-of-the-Art Technology for Colouring Adhesive Masses**" will be delivered by V. Magnolfi of Icap-Sira Chemicals and Polymers SpA, Italy. Also of particular interest are two lectures covering tapes used for automotive and medical applications: "**Wire Harness Tapes for a Non-Halogen Automotive Future**" (B. Müssig, tesa AG, Germany) and "**Medical Devices and Pharmaceutical Products Coated with PSAs**" (J. Sigg, IVF Hartmann AG, Switzerland). Returning lecturer C. Creton of Laboratoire PCSM-ESPCI, Paris University, will discuss "**Strategies to Enhance Adhesion on Polyolefin Surfaces.**"

The 4 Session Chairmen of the TS are Peter Broschk of tesa AG, Germany, Ronald Pfaff of tesa AG, Germany, Chrétien Donker of Eastman Chemical Middelburg BV, The Netherlands, and Christophe Kuesters of 3M Deutschland GmbH.

Seminar invitees include Afera's 124 members from 17 European countries, as well as non-members who are associated with the European self adhesive tape industry, such as the press, customers, suppliers and other international counterparts. Because of the updated, relevant nature of the TS programme, **both returning and first-time participants are expected to attend.**

"Afera's Technical Seminar has become synonymous with the scientific innovations, cutting edge issues, key industry players and networking platform which power today's PSA global market," explained **Lutz Jacob of ExxonMobil Chemical Europe, TS**

Chairman as well as Afera's Technical Committee Chairman. "The TS has proven itself as a driving event of the PSA industry: the lectures are concise, the subject-matter fresh and the participant pool extremely compelling for any PSA industry professional looking to succeed in the fast-moving world of tape."

As well as providing a unique educational opportunity to participants, the event serves to create and maintain lines of communication within the industry. Afera has ensured that the 4th TS provide **ample opportunity for networking outside of the lectures**. In addition to 2 cocktail receptions and 3 buffet lunches, a special conference dinner has been arranged at the Museum Brasserie in the centre of Brussels on the second evening of the event.

The early registration deadline for the 4th TS is 15th February 2008, after which participant fees will increase by €100. Afera members are eligible for special participant fees, with discounts of up to €300 per person. Detailed programme and registration information can be found at Afera's website, afera.com.

Afera is open for membership to those involved in the European self adhesive tape industry, such as manufacturers, suppliers and national tape organisations. A specific category for non-members is reserved for "other participants" in Afera's activities and the use of its resources. Other Participants include other groups in the tape family, such as converters (printers, slitters, die cutters and laminators of self adhesive tape). As the heart of tape industry expertise, Afera offers the latest on developments through regular conferences and seminars, an extensive network of industry players, communication of relevant information through its magazine, website, and other mediums, focused committees and working groups addressing important regulatory issues and research, and full-time logistical support from its head office in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Afera, the European Association for the Self Adhesive Tape Industry, is comprised of 124 members from 17 European countries that represent the scope of expertise of the tape industry. Aiming to promote the broad interests of the self adhesive tape industry, Afera actively studies relevant industry issues, provides platforms for discussion and interaction, and facilitates contact among its members and all other pertinent industry bodies at national and international levels. Founded in Paris in 1958, Afera has operated with its head office in The Hague, the Netherlands since 1999 under the management of Lejeune Association Management.

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