

GLAFRI is one voice for foil globally

Exhibiting for the first time at ALUMINIUM 2016, the Global Aluminium Foil Roller Initiative (GLAFRI) as founded in January 2015 now has 65 members, of which 60 are producers, with operations in 28 countries.



Stefan Glimm is Director General of Alufoil.

GLAFRI members represent around 50 percent of global production (up to 200 μm) presently, comprising EU, China, South Korea, Japan, Turkey, Russia, Brazil and USA primarily. Director General Stefan Glimm says he aims to consolidate the membership internationally and stabilise the association, which represents foil rollers up to 200 micron thickness, and has nearly doubled its membership over the first two years of existence.

The current President is Oliver Hommel of Hydro Aluminium in

Germany. Foil production goes around 70 percent into packaging and 30 per cent into technical applications in Europe, while in China there is a 50 / 50 split due to areas such as air conditioners. The lower packaging percentage in China represents a huge potential market. GLAFRI is actively promoting foil and food container applications worldwide, as it did recently in China. There were 125 attendees from 65 companies at the 4th GLAFCO (Global Aluminium Foil Roller Conference) in Shanghai in September 2016, where GLAFRI decided on further promotion activities for 2017.

Other initiatives GLAFRI backs include the Alufoil Trophy Awards for aluminium foil and closure applications and ideas. Originally

being an award for Europe by EAFA, the European Aluminium Foil Association the idea of GLAFRI is to motivate other regions to enhance innovation by similar awards, and Brazil and China have decided to go for it. EAFA officially accepted entries for the Alufoil Trophy 2017 competition until 21 December 2016. Winners' products will be presented on the EAFA Stand at interpack, the world's largest packaging exhibition, in Düsseldorf in May 2017.

As well as general marketing, GLAFRI members receive various benefits including market data and news about sustainability aspects related to foil. An annual subscription is 2,000 euros presently.

www.global-alufoil.org

Assan Alüminyum has expansive plans

Within 2017, Assan Alüminyum of Turkey will be increasing its total production capacity to 300,000 tonnes per year.

Assan Alüminyum was recently ranked as the 40th largest industrial company in Turkey. It is the leading flat-rolled aluminium producer in Turkey and is one of the top three aluminium foil producers in Europe, with presently 80 ktpy foil capacity. Assan ended the year 2016 with a sales volume of 258,400 tonnes, in line with its budget, or a 6.1% growth (2015: 243,500 t). This is a record for a Turkish flat-rolled aluminium producer. Through core values of reliability, flexibility and innovation, Assan already exports more than 70% of its sales volume to more than 70 countries around the world, primarily (80-85%) to EU countries. Assan Alüminyum is a subsidiary of Kibar Holding, a group of 22 companies in metals, energy and real estate with over 7,500 employees.

Göksal Güngör has been General Manager of Assan Alüminyum and its 1,200 employees since July 2016. Mr Güngör was selected as one of the Vice Presidents at the GLAFRI (Global Aluminium Foil Roller Initiative) Conference in Shanghai in 2016 (see above).

New investment projects are undertaken with core values of reliability, flexibility and innovation. As one of the pioneers of continuous-casting technology, Assan is planning some new investments starting in 2017. It is planning to invest in high value-added areas. Short-term



Göksal Güngör is Assan Alüminyum General Manager. Photo: Assan Alüminyum

investments include 2 new casting lines and 1 new foil rolling line (an Achenbach OPTIMILL® foil rolling mill) at Dilovasi, in order to increase casting and foil rolling capacities. The 2 new casting lines are due to start production in mid-2017. The new high performance universal foil rolling line is planned to start production by the end of 2017. This foil rolling mill will roll aluminium down to strip thicknesses of 2 x 0.006 mm with strip widths of up to 1,850 mm and coil weights of up to 12,000 kg. The initial stage of investments will be followed by a series of new larger expansion plans, including a light gauge cold rolling mill, additional foil rolling mills and a number of finishing lines to eventually raise capacity to 350,000 tpy.



Inside the Assan Alüminyum plant. Photo: Assan Alüminyum

A much larger scale investment is planned in the medium term (around 2020), with a value reaching up to US\$ 800 million. This investment aims to be the first modern and high-width aluminium hot rolling facility in Turkey. An integrated port is also within the investment plans of the facility. The proposed facility will produce semi-finished goods for a wide variety of strategic sectors such as aerospace, defence, aviation, transport and flexible packaging. As a result, Assan will be capable of producing high value added products with first-class aluminium alloys and will be supporting the further development of the sectors it will be serving.

www.assanaluminyum.com



Assan Alüminyum pre-painted facilities. Photo: Assan Alüminyum

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