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# Dornbirn congress relaunch reflects global reach

**Under its new name, the Dornbirn Global Fiber Congress will return this September with a focus on sustainable innovations in the supply chain. The event in Austria has steadily grown over the years to now offer international industry leaders the platform to openly discuss environmental progress in the sector, along with new fibre innovations and product applications.**

The 57th edition of the Dornbirn Global Fiber Congress, formerly the Man-made Fiber Congress, is expected to attract over 700 delegates from around the world this September. The annual event has proven instrumental within the fibre industry, attracting industry experts from Europe (80 per cent), Asia (15 per cent) and the Americas (5 per cent) with papers covering the breadth of issues and innovations currently facing the textiles sector.

More than 100 papers from experts representative of academia and industry will present on topics including fibre innovations, transportation and mobility, recycling and the circular economy, energy generation and storage and surface modification and additive technologies.

Around 700 delegates are expected at Dornbirn GFC.

The board members and CEOs of Indorama Group, Reliance and Lenzing have confirmed their participation at the leadership panel on the opening day.

Of particular focus this year will be the idea of a 'circular economy', a concept which garnered significant support, including from the EU Commission.

Friedrich Weninger, managing director of the Austrian Fibres Institute, told *T.EVO*: "Because of the big interest from the whole supply chain – right down to brands and retailers – and the success of last year's Circular Economy Dornbirn (CED) workshop, we decided to have a dedication section featuring more than 20 lectures on the circular economy at Dornbirn-GFC 2018."

A wealth of brands, suppliers and organisations have already been lined up, including a panel featuring the International Solid and Waste Association (ISWA) who will discuss new approaches to sustainable practice in the supply chain.

Canadian sportswear brand Lululemon Athletica will delve into the industry's future trends and areas for innovation.

To represent applications within the automotive space, AVL, a leading company in the development of powertrains, will discuss the relevance of fibre innovations for this lucrative sector, along with what the market can expect in terms of future innovations.

Friedrich Weninger, managing director of the Austrian Fibres Institute spoke to *T.EVO* about Dornbirn-GFC 2018.

For the third time, the Dornbirn GFC will feature the Young Scientists Forum, this year supported by SynGroup who will lead a workshop on 'Open Innovation and its relevant challenges'.

Looking beyond 2018, Weninger commented: "We want to work with kind of 'satellites' outside of Europe, but Dornbirn will always be the root of the congress. One successful example we had last year was the Dornbirn-GFC corner at Techtextil India. This cooperation and others will create a bigger global reach. It is important that we create global networks in order to achieve the best innovations."

Dornbirn-GFC will be held 12-14 September 2018 alongside this year's Saltex show (Smart Textiles and High-Performance Materials, held 12-13 September), a partnership which organisers say will serve to intensify the industry-wide focus on fibre and textile innovation.

*Web: www.dornbirn-gfc.com* **T.EVO**