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The 71st SEPAWA CONGRESS,
the 20th European Detergents Conference
and the Cosmetic Science Conference
from October 16th to 18th, 2024, in Berlin

Dr. H. Lothar Möhle

16–18 OCTOBER 2024

SEPAWA[®]
CONGRESS

ECC ESTREL CONGRESS CENTER BERLIN



The 71st SEPAWA CONGRESS, the 20th European Detergents Conference and the Cosmetic Science Conference from October 16th to 18th, 2024, in Berlin

You have to work for success!

The chemistry was right at this year's SEPAWA CONGRESS and the SEPAWA e.V. board, SEPAWA eVent GmbH and the many participants worked together to ensure this.

The SEPAWA CONGRESS took place for the sixth time at the ECC Estrel Congress Center in Berlin. One could already speak of habit in a familiar environment and the annual date is fixed for the long term in the agendas of the exhibiting companies in our sectors and in those of the potential participants. The interest in the SEPAWA CONGRESS in our industries is unbroken and characterized by steady growth. The statistics are clear: 3910 participants from 66 countries, 326 exhibitors, 164 specialist presentations, 64 posters. A look at the interests of the participants is also interesting. For example, 37.9% focused on home care, 36.5% on personal care, 11.7% on fragrance and 13.9% on other. The result reflects the sectors that SEPAWA e.V. is committed to in accordance with its purpose.

The board of SEPAWA e.V. and SEPAWA eVent GmbH as organizers have once again succeeded in planning an attractive congress and running it smoothly. Over 10% growth in terms of the number of participants in one year is remarkable. And it goes without saying for nothing that the SEPAWA eVent GmbH team describes the congress as "THE event with a special character". The congress location is ideal and will not reach its capacity limits in the future as far as the actual congress activities are concerned. Specifically, the expansion of the exhibition space is being discussed. The format of the congress, combining a lecture event and trade exhibition, is coherent and the distances between them are short. In up to five parallel sessions, research results from industry-related scientific basic research were presented as part of the "European Detergents Conference" (EDC) and scientific cosmetics as part of the "Cosmetic Science Conference" (CSC) of the

DGK e.V. as well as results from application-oriented research and development on detergents and cleaning agents and cosmetics, while the DGP designed and presented the results from perfumery research. The lecture block on regulatory issues and sustainability, which was started by the SEPAWA e.V. specialist group "Legislative - Environment - Consumer" (LUV), remains highly topical. The SEPAPack Conference on packaging is now firmly integrated into the lecture program. Parallel to the lecture program, a poster session with scientific and product promotional content will take place on all three days of the congress. There are two possible answers to the question

of what makes the SEPAWA CONGRESS so special. On the one hand, visitors will be informed, about the latest developments and trends in specialist and industry-specific presentations. On the other hand, visitors can actively inform themselves about the latest developments in the markets of our sectors at the trade exhibition, seek out discussions and engage in networking. Both are possible, in one and the same venue and perhaps this interaction is the "magic formula" for the SEPAWA CONGRESS.

A highlight every year is the awarding of special achievements. The 1st Chairman of SEPAWA e.V., Dr. Hans Jürgen Scholz, presented the awards.



Picture: Dr. Hans Jürgen Scholz

Picture credits: ©Katrin Heyer



Picture credits: ©Katrin Heyer

Presentation of the SEPAWA e.V. Young Researchers' Award

The annual **SEPAWA e.V. Young Researchers' Award** fulfills one of the most important objectives of SEPAWA e.V., in particular to promote the training of young professionals. The prize is awarded to students for outstanding bachelor's, master's and doctoral theses. The jury selected four winners from the submitted theses. This year, two Bachelor's and two Master's theses were evaluated as worthy of the award.

The **1st prize** in the category 'Outstanding Graduate with a Bachelor's Degree' was awarded to **Ms. Julia Kruse**, Ostwestfalen-Lippe University of Applied Sciences, for her thesis on '*Comparative Performance Analysis of various Gas Sensor Systems Used as Electric Noses*'.

The **2nd prize** went to **Ms. Alexandra Kirner**, Ostwestfalen-Lippe University of Applied Sciences and Symrise AG, for her work on '*Development of a novel in vitro method for determining the water resistance of sunscreen products*'.

This year's **1st prize** in the category 'Outstanding Master's Thesis' went to **Ms. Jule Marie Sauler**, University of Hamburg, for her work on the topic '*Investigation of the coloring species*

and the reaction mechanism of a hair dye containing Reseda luteola L. and silver nitrate'.

The **2nd prize** went to **Mr. Dmitrij Bogdanov**, University of Hamburg. The title of the prize-winning work was '*Investigation of the effect of skin care cosmetics on skin physiological parameters. A meta-analysis*'.

Award Ceremony SEPAWA e.V. Innovation Award

Innovation is not just a much-used buzzword, it is crucial for growth and competitiveness in our markets and

forms the basis for successful and sustainable business. This year marked the twelfth time that the SEPAWA e.V. Innovation Award in the fields of cosmetics and detergents was presented. The prize is intended to provide impetus for active ideas management in the member companies of SEPAWA e.V. and to raise public awareness of successful innovations.

A neutral and independent jury, consisting of 8 members of the advisory board, the scientific advisory board and the board of SEPAWA e.V., selected four companies from 26 submitted proposals to receive the award. The prize consists



Picture: Innovation Award Winners 2024

of a certificate and a wooden trophy, which represents the SEPAWA e.V. wave in stylized form.

The **first prize** went to **Lignovations GmbH Austria**. "LignoGuard®Aqua20" describes bio-based, colloidal lignin particles with multifunctional properties for cosmetic applications.

The **second prize** was awarded to **Inolex GmbH**. "LexSolv™ Essential" was developed as a 100% EO-free solubilizer based on polyglyceryl esters using a market-oriented molecular design.

Symrise AG Germany received a further **2nd prize** for the product development of "SymFeel Quat Green®". This product, a polyglyceryl-3 betainate citrate according to INCI, is an effective, natural substitute for polyquats.

The **third prize** went to **Lubrizol Life Science** for the development of an innovative polymer "Carbopol® Fusion S-20". The polymer is of natural origin and biodegradable. It behaves similarly in terms of clarity and rheology modification to acrylate copolymers in sulfate-containing and sulfate-free rinse-off formulations.

Traditionally, the award ceremony took place at the beginning of the After Event. What a great way to start the evening with the Award Ceremony in front of 1100 guests.

Honoring Excellence in Detergent Chemistry – GDCh Awards

The GDCh Division of Detergent Chemistry traditionally honors young scientists for excellent scientific work of particular relevance to the development of detergents and cleaning agents. This year, prizes were awarded in three categories.

B.Sc. Sponsorship Award: The prize was awarded to **Mr. Anton Michel-Busch** in recognition of his bachelor thesis entitled: "Investigation of the pH-Dependence of Phase Behaviour and Structure of Complexes of Amphoteric

Microemulsion Droplets and Polyelectrolytes", which he wrote at the **Technical University of Berlin**. A corresponding poster can be found in the poster exhibition.

M.Sc. Sponsorship Award: The prize was awarded to **Mr. Benedix** in recognition of his master's thesis completed at the **University of Stuttgart** entitled: "CO₂ - Switchable Additive and Surfac-

ber 2023. The authors represent the companies **Henkel** and **Novonesis**.

The **second prize** was awarded to the authors **F. Kayatz, M. Kott, L. Tomei, M. Föllmer, A. Springer** from the **Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging**. The title of the publication in the SOFW Journal May 2024 is "Sustainable Packaging Solutions from Paludiculates: Potential and Challenges".

The **third prize** was awarded to the authors **C. Vigo Xancó, S. Bouhrir, E. Escudero, D. Manzano** for their publication in the SOFW Journal September 2023. The title is "Der-mohacking Senescence with a new AI-proven & Biotech Ingredient". The authors represent the company **Pro-vital S.A.**

SOFW Award Ceremony – The Secret's Finally Out!

For the fifth time, an independent jury of seven members evaluated a total of 63 articles published in the SOFW Journals from September 2023 to June 2024. On October 16, during the award ceremony at the SEPAWA CONGRESS, the winners of the three best articles published in the SOFW Journal were announced. After the authors briefly presented their latest product developments and techniques, they were presented with the SOFW Award and a certificate.

The **first prize** was awarded to the authors **R. Munk Vejborg, M. Kandzia, L. J. Nielsen, T. Wilke, T. Rechenbach, K. E. Thuesen, M. Weide** for the publication entitled "Deep-cleaning and Freshness for Sustainable Laundry with Dispersin", published in the SOFW Journal Octo-



Picture: SOFW Awards 2024

tants". A corresponding poster can also be found in the poster exhibition.

Ph.D. Award: The prize is awarded to **Dr. Marc-Kevin Zinn** in recognition of his dissertation completed at **Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences** entitled: "Protective biofilms to prevent the colonization of household water systems by harmful organisms, exemplified by the washing machine".

Keynote Lecture

The **Division Prize** was awarded to **Dr. Felix Müller**. This was in recognition of his many years of active support for the work of the GDCh Division of Detergent Chemistry. In his now more than 27 years of membership in the division, he has contributed in many ways with extraordinary personal commitment, both professionally and organizationally. In Felix Müller, we are honoring a personality who has rendered outstanding services above all at the interface between science and industry.

The Lecture Event – a Compilation of Selected Focus Topics

The lecture program reflects the scientific foundation as well as the breadth of technical applications in our detergents/cleansers, cosmetics and perfume industries, including packaging solutions in their entirety.

In April 2004, a cooperation agreement was concluded between SEPAWA e.V. and the GDCh for the implementation of the **European Detergents Conference (EDC)** at the SEPAWA CONGRESS. For 20 years now, the EDC has been opening the scientific lecture block at the congress, which is mainly organized by the GDCh Division “Detergent Chemistry” (formerly GDCh Division “Detergent Chemistry”). This is what a success story looks like when the interests of the respective partners show a high degree of commonality.

Professor Dr. Birgit Glösen, Chairwoman of the GDCh Division “Chemistry of Washing” opened this year’s congress under the motto:

“20 years of EDC - The Future of Detergent Chemistry”

Freely quoted from Professor Glösen’s introductory speech: “(...) How have developments in the chemistry of surfactants and their use in detergents and cleaning agents changed in recent decades and what can we expect in the coming years? Future solutions will have to operate at the interface be-

Each year, the SEPAWA e.V. board invites a prominent personality from science, society, business, politics, or sports to speak at the SEPAWA CONGRESS. Whether addressing highly topical subjects or enduring challenges, the keynote lectures are always thought-provoking and insightful.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Clemens Fuest, IFO Institute, Munich

“Europe 2024/2025: Between the Energy Crisis and Geopolitical Challenges”.

Economic development in Europe remains sluggish. The German economy, in particular, is only gradually emerging from stagnation, supported by falling interest rates and rising wages. However, medium-term challenges persist: geopolitical tensions continue to disrupt global trade,

high energy prices and uncertainties around future supplies weigh heavily on energy-intensive industries, and demographic shifts are resulting in labor shortages. To address these challenges, Germany and Europe require a robust economic policy agenda focused on fostering investment, growth, and dynamism.



tween sustainable chemistry, resource efficiency and net zero emission targets. This creates a challenging environment for new materials and developments in the field of detergents and cleaning agents. Discuss with us at EDC 2024 (...).”

In **13 lectures** and **13 posters**, reference is made to the topics mentioned above. It is noticeable that microbial biosurfactants as well as amphiphilic

glycolipids and polymers are frequently the subject of material research.

51 papers were presented at the **SEPAWA e.V. Scientific Conference**, which focused on the latest research findings in the detergents/cleansers, cosmetics and perfume industries and their regulatory framework. The core topics in the “Personal Care Session”, which was organized by the CAT specialist group and featured **18 presen-**

tations, included the implementation of neuro-cosmetic findings in products, new approaches to sustainability and a look at the scientific aspects of cosmetic formulations. In the “Home Care Session” with 12 presentations, the focus was on bleaching at low temperatures, the use of enzymes, biofouling and the classification of liquid polymers with a view to the diffuse discussion regarding microplastics. The LUV specialist group was responsible for a selection of presentations that were, as always, highly topical. For example, the topics chosen included the regulatory assessment of polymers from a physico-chemical perspective, the objectification of the 1,4-dioxane discussion by TEGEWA against the backdrop of upcoming legislative initiatives and new findings on the biodegradation of polymers.

Sustainable Packaging – SEPAPack

The **SEPAPack** Conference is now an integral part of the congress program. The **8 presentations** in the session provided information on the current regulations for packaging solutions, as well as their latest practical implementations. Topics included packaging raw materials from biorefineries and the recycling of packaging, including the associated challenges and risks.

The Forum for Innovation and the Poster Exhibition

This year, **88 speakers** took the opportunity to present the latest developments at the “Forum for Innovation”. The demand for short presentations is steadily increasing. **The number of poster contributions** relating to the Forum for Innovation has also **risen to 28**. In addition to the posters for the scientific conferences, **the total number is 64**. The posters were supervised on site for the entire duration of the congress. The contact persons were mainly young scientists from universities and academic institutes, as well as employees from industrial research and institutional facilities in our sectors.



Picture: Poster Exhibition

An additional service was also offered on site for viewing the posters: There were three so-called “Smart Poster” stations - an innovative way to select interesting posters for viewing.

The Cosmetic Science Conference of the DGK e.V.: ‘The Scientific Foundations of Cosmetics’

The aim of this conference is to present the development of cosmetic science as a whole. “Reliable cosmetics in the future” is the title of the session. This year’s CSC comprised **11 presentations**. In five mini-sessions under the keywords “Keynote”, “Microbi-

ome”, “Skin Barrier”, “Sensors” and “Sun”, important key research areas of the DGK e.V. were addressed. The one-hour keynote lecture dealt with the topic: “Polymer biodegradability 2.0: A holistic approach to polymer degradation in natural and technical environments.” The CSC of the DGK e.V. was rounded off by **8 scientific posters**.

Breaking News: The After Event is Sold Out – „Oh No!“ (Loriot)

After two days of congress and exhibition, the approx. 1100 congress participants were invited to sample gourmet food stations and could continue ‘net-



Picture: After Event

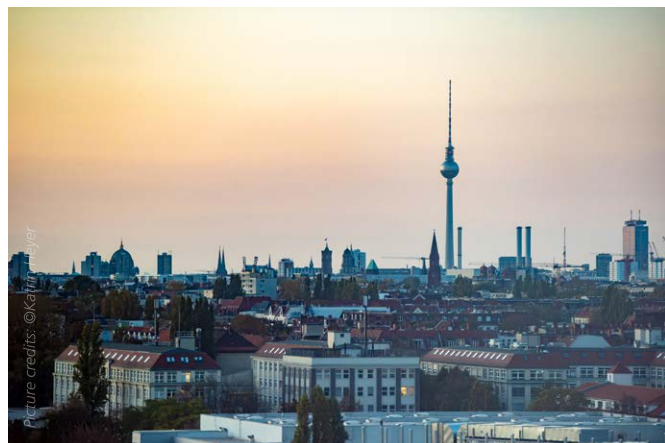
working' while waiting in line. The ECC shone with its own gastronomic skills and those of the invited chefs. Stars were in the air and a live band invited guests to dance. The dance floor was quickly occupied by the participants and those who had found their place were unlikely to give it up any time soon. By around two o'clock at the latest, the hall was in a festive mood. On closer inspection, SEPAWA e.V. shouldn't really be worried about the next generation, as it was predominantly the younger generation that dominated the scene.

Summary, Thanks and Outlook

The SEPAWA CONGRESS is "the event with a special character" – lectures, exhibition, networking. **3910 participants** and **326 exhibitors** – an impressive result! Familiar processes, but also innovations have contributed to this. It is the participants who create a lively atmosphere in the lecture

wing and exhibition halls. In particular, it is the speakers with their presentations on various topics and the exhibiting companies that demonstrate the continuity, creativity and innovative strength of our industry. The board of SEPAWA e.V. would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the congress. We must not forget the **SEPAWA eVent GmbH** team led by **Robert** and **Siegfried Fischer**, who prepared and organized the congress with professionalism, enthusiasm and the courage to innovate.

As mentioned at the beginning: "You have to work for success!", especially in unstable times. The annual SEPAWA CONGRESS has become the most important meeting place for the detergents/cleansers, cosmetics and perfumery industry in Europe.



It's never too early to make a note in your calendar! The **SEPAWA CONGRESS 2025** will take place from October 15 to 17 at the ECC in Berlin.

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SAVE THE DATE

15–17 OCTOBER 2025



3,910
Participants



66
Countries



326
Exhibitors



164
Lectures in 2024

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