



The European voice of the  
**adhesive and sealant industry**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, 17 September 2018

**Post-event Press Release**

## **FEICA European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO 2018 600 participants from 35 countries attended the 2018 FEICA Conference and EXPO, which focused heavily on digitalisation.**

The FEICA European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO, which has been growing exponentially since 1972, again saw a record number of delegates attend this year's event, which took place in Riga, Latvia, from 12 to 14 September.

This year's Conference Business Forum, titled 'adhesives and sealants in the digital age', demonstrated how the growth of the internet and digital technologies will change our lives in ways we cannot even begin to imagine. Four top quality keynote speakers showed how digitalisation could bring enormous benefits to business, but only if we understand the challenges it will bring. Aric Dromi, Futurologist and Digital Philosopher, explored a world where technology suppresses natural evolution and machines become a disposable basket for cognitive function. Richard van Hooijdonk, Trend Watcher and expert on digitalisation in the supply chain, examined how for the 'next production revolution' we will need to become fully aware of the Internet of Things, the risk from a young generation of hackers, advanced robotics, industrial biotechnology, 3D printing, etc. Johan Bruck, Material & Innovation Leader for Polymer Materials at IKEA explained the company's current and future adhesive needs. Tom Voskes, Founding and Managing Partner of SparkOptimus, encouraged us to 'Make disruption work'. He explained that 'for businesses, the water is heating up, and if you don't want to get boiled, you'll need to craft a winning strategy.' The overall message was that companies need to quickly come to grips with the new digital age in order to be well placed to address the risks and reap the benefits.

The Conference's parallel break-out sessions gave delegates a chance to attend informative presentations in their own particular spheres of interest. Topics ranged from the digital transformation of your business to the circular economy and smart solutions through bio-based adhesives and sealants. The FEICA Seminar, open to all members, addressed 'A Business Perspective on Regulatory Challenges'. At the EXPO, 44 exhibitors showcased their latest developments. With so many registrants this year, the Radisson Blu in Riga was buzzing for three days in a row.

FEICA President Dr Boris Tasche (IVK - Industrieverband Klebstoffe e.V.) said 'FEICA 2018 explored, among other things, the far-reaching implications of the digital age whilst identifying practical strategies that will help adhesive and sealant companies to succeed in this exciting new era.' FEICA received much praise for its event. Anna Steneholm, Senior Staff Researcher Toxicology at Nynas AB stated 'A very, very good conference! Brilliant organisation and venue!'

FEICA's board elected a new Vice-President, Roland Albers, Senior Vice President Europe (Bostik). The new FEICA European Executive Board organigram is available via <http://www.feica.eu/about-feica/organigram/executive-board.aspx>

FEICA 2018 saw the launch of a video titled 'the world of adhesives and sealants', which can be viewed on the [FEICA public website](#). The video demonstrates that adhesives and sealants are used to make almost everything, and that without them 'we would be left with not very much at all'.

The year's conference also saw the handing out of the very first FEICA/EURADH (European Adhesion Societies) award for Innovative Adhesion Science. Philip Bruce, FEICA Secretary General, presented the award to Dr René Hensel for his paper on 'composite pillars with a tunable interface for adhesion to rough substrates'. The award aims to stimulate the interactions between industrial and scientific activities in adhesion science. It is funded by FEICA and will be presented at the EURADH conferences every two years. More is available on [www.adhesionaward.org](http://www.adhesionaward.org) and <http://www.feica.eu/our-priorities/key-projects/adhesion-innovation-award.aspx>.

FEICA thanks its sponsors, speakers and moderators, exhibitors and all 600 participants who attended and contributed towards the success of the 2018 FEICA Conference & EXPO. The 2019 FEICA Conference & EXPO will be held at the Valamar Dubrovnik Hotels in Croatia from 11-13 September 2018. Registration will open in March 2019.

For more information, please visit the FEICA Conference & EXPO website: [www.feica-conferences.com](http://www.feica-conferences.com)

### What our participants had to say...

*'The conference again offered inspiring discussions and interesting news. It was also very well organised, as always.'* – Steffen Maier, Senior Scientist, Waterbased Sealants and Adhesives, Sika

*'The annual FEICA Conference is cast in stone in the European adhesive and sealant industry's calendar. It always offers an exciting chance to get to grips with the important challenges facing the industry through the outstanding speakers and the plentiful opportunities for in-depth networking with fellow professionals'.*  
– Fabio Chiozza, Vinavil SpA

*'FEICA 2018 was my first FEICA conference and I was thoroughly impressed with how it was so professionally prepared and delivered'.* - Stuart Jenkinson, Business Director - Converting Solutions at H.B. Fuller UK

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## **FEICA**

FEICA, the Association of the European Adhesives and Sealants Industry, represents the industry at a European level and works with all relevant stakeholders to create a mutually beneficial economic and legislative environment within which they can operate and prosper.

Our industry provides leading edge technologies that make the manufacture and supply of many everyday products possible; it contributes greatly to the European and global economy, fosters sustainable development, encourages innovation and offers stimulating careers for people with a wide range of skills.

For further information about FEICA, please visit our website [www.feica.eu](http://www.feica.eu).

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