

Press release

nova-Institut GmbH (www.nova-institute.eu)
Hürth, 9 January 2020



Finally! The world's first conference on cellulose fibres will take place in Cologne on February 11–12, 2020: “1st International Conference on Cellulose Fibres”

The focus is on markets, technologies and sustainability

The global cellulose fibre market is one of the fastest-growing markets altogether, with an annual growth rate of almost 10%. Experts estimate that sales will exceed 50 billion dollars in 2025. The increasing demand for environmentally friendly and biodegradable fibres for textiles, hygiene products and plastic substitutes in packaging are the most important drivers for the growth. In this context, political regulations, which aim to drastically reduce the discharge of microplastics into the environment, play an important role.

In order to be able to meet the constantly growing demand, large investments in wood-based biorefineries are currently undertaken. This is particularly visible in Asia and Northern Europe, where other wood chemistry products are manufactured in addition to cellulose fibres. This ensures that all components of the wood are used. Increasingly, alternative raw material sources are being used as well, such as used textiles, waste wood, agricultural industry residues and waste water, which often still contains cellulose. Utilising such alternative sources, the ecological footprint of cellulose fibres can be even further reduced.

Michael Carus, Managing Director of nova-Institute in Hürth near Cologne, was astonished by the fact that this promising area had not yet its own conference: *“Every other area that is growing fast, has a huge number of new technologies and constantly attracts new players, usually has its own global conference. We need to fill this gap quickly. Thus, at the beginning of 2019, the idea was born to hold the “1st International Conference on Cellulose Fibres” in Cologne. We are looking forward to the premiere on 11 and 12 February 2020, which will bring together the world's most important producers and players.”*

With 30 presentations, the programme covers the entire range of topics: markets & politics, sustainability and circularity, new production technologies, alternative raw materials and applications in the fields of textiles, hygiene products, biocomposites and food (nanocellulose). The focus is also always on applications in which plastics can be replaced by cellulose fibres.

Leading companies such as Lenzing (Austria), Sateri (China), Aditya Birla (India), Södra (Sweden), Metsä Fibre (Finland) and Kelheim Fibres (Germany) will present their latest technological developments, new properties and applications. Furthermore, life cycle assessments and concepts for the extraction of cellulose fibres from alternative raw material sources will be presented, whereby the fibres can be reintegrated into the circular economy to

be used again. In this context, auxiliary materials (Bozzetto (Italy)) and equipment (Levaco Chemicals (Germany)) are also included in the ecological optimisations. The market leaders in the industry are joined by numerous start-ups and leading research institutes from Denmark, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the USA.

Sustainability will be highlighted by two sessions and a panel discussion, in which users, certifiers and environmental groups will participate. Particularly the environmental activists of Canopy (Canada) have set themselves the goal of developing corporate solutions that protect the last natural forests. 750 companies have already joined this goal. Together with ISCC (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification, Germany), Textile Exchange (Germany/USA) and textile customers like Esprit (Germany/Hong Kong), exciting discussions are to be expected.

An additional thematic focus is the biodegradability of cellulose fibres. This topic is of particular importance because microfibres inevitably enter the waste water during the washing of textiles. Furthermore, various disposable plastic products that can be partially substituted by cellulose fibres will be banned from 2021. There will be interesting scientific presentations on these topics from the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego (USA), among others.

Sateri (China), Lenzing (Austria) and Bozzetto (Italy) will support the conference as gold sponsors. In addition, LEVACO Chemical (Germany) will be involved as a silver sponsor and NC Partnering (Finland) and Stora Enso (Finland/Sweden) as bronze sponsors.

Premium partner of the conference is the environmental activist group Canopy (Canada). Other well-known partners of the conference are BCNP Consultants (Germany), C.A.R.M.E.N. (Germany), CLIB (Germany), the Institute of Textile Technology (ITA) of RWTH Aachen University (Germany), PEFC International (Switzerland/Germany), Textile Exchange (Germany/USA), The Fibre Year Consulting (Switzerland) and the World Bioeconomy Forum (Finland).

Nova-Institute expects 200 to 300 participants and 30 exhibitors from all over the world. In addition, a large number of different industries such as textiles, hygiene and packaging will participate in the conference.

Further information, programme and registration: www.cellulose-fibres.eu

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