

Converting Family –
Munich Adhesives and Finishing Symposium

A proud anniversary

For 50 years, the Munich Adhesives and Finishing Symposium – has been a fixture in the calendars of many key players in the converting industry. PRO Flexconvert was on-site live at the anniversary edition – and met organiser Stephan Hinterwaldner for an exclusive interview.

PRO Flexconvert: Mr Hinterwaldner, Munich Adhesives and Finishing Symposium celebrated its 50th anniversary. What are your thoughts on this impressive milestone?

Stephan Hinterwaldner: First of all, I think of the founding father and long-time organiser Prof Knut Nitzl. Even he could not have imagined what has become of what he started back in 1976 as a seminar for his students, among others. From a technical point of view, as I mentioned in my opening speech this year, I think of all the revolutionary achievements and changes that have taken place during this period. If you look at mechanical engineering in the converting industry in the 1970s and today, for example, it is fascinating to see how adaptable and innovative the industry had to be in order to keep pace with requirements. From paper and simple PP and PE films to today's complex and sustainable multilayer materials. Today, we see effective process optimisation via data models instead of trial and error or analogue measurements. We

are also seeing enormous progress in terms of quality, reproduction and speed, to name just a few of the improvements. In my opinion, we are currently on the verge of a huge leap forward in terms of AI.

PRO Flexconvert: And what does this mean for the future of this traditional event?

S. Hinterwaldner: The Munich Adhesives and Finishing Symposium has the task of accompanying this leap forward and ensuring a happy landing in the future. For me, this means, first of all, selecting the relevant topics when acquiring and selecting specialist lectures, presentations and posters. Secondly, I want to ensure a good interdisciplinary networking platform. So, remain objective and open to new ideas, discuss controversial topics and question existing assumptions. Because if you want to actively shape the future, you have to be prepared. Transformation is not a risk. It is an opportunity. And in addition to our consulting services, we can support the

world of adhesives and converting with our two annual events, the in-adhesives symposium and the Munich Adhesives and Finishing Symposium.

PRO Flexconvert: How would you sum up this year's event?

S. Hinterwaldner: 50 years is quite a milestone. Of course, I am proud of what is associated with the Munich Adhesives and Finishing Symposium – and of the many national and international congratulations from science, industry and associations. The feedback was consistently positive! I am grateful for the personal exchanges with all the interesting people. Once again, there were many new, young faces this year. This shows me that the next generation is coming through. I like that! And it reinforces my commitment to continuing both conferences consistently and sustainably in line with our motto 'by the industry, for the industry'.

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 Image source: Nina Pirchmoser



Stephan Hinterwaldner at the lectern



*Stephan Hinterwaldner (2nd from left) with
Nina Pirchmoser (2nd from right) and his team*