Press Release

16 October 2018

**The PPMA Show 2018 breaks all records**

**to deliver the biggest show in its 30-year history**

The PPMA Show 2018, which took place at the NEC Birmingham between 25-27 September, delivered the biggest show in its 30-year history.

A record 373 exhibitors from the processing equipment and packaging machinery industry filled over 11,000 m2 of hall-space with visitor footfall providing a high volume of quality visitors throughout the three-day event.

With one of the most impressive line-ups of product launches, new technologies, keynote speakers, live demonstrations and ground breaking solutions, both visitors and exhibitors alike have hailed the PPMA Show 2018 the best yet.

Exhibitors welcomed the outstanding calibre of visitors, comprising senior representatives, key decision makers and purchasers from a variety of sectors, and reported exceptional numbers of high-quality leads. Onsite business deals and sales secured at the show, valued at many millions of pounds, was a further indicator of the success of the show.

Commenting on the PPMA Show 2018, Dr Andrew Mint, CEO of the PPMA Group, says: “We are absolutely delighted that the show has received such positive feedback from our exhibitors. We are also thrilled that, once again, the show attracted the right calibre of visitor with a genuine sense of purpose.

The fact that such high numbers of quality leads were generated; so many positive discussions took place; and so much business was secured at the show, is testament to there still being a strong appetite for this event,” he added.

The two-day seminar programme, which delivered a first-class line up of expert speakers covering topical issues offered insight, education and inspiration in the Enterprise Zone. Presentations covering Industry 4.0, cyber-security, augmented reality, robotics and automation all drew strong crowds, while audience participation was particularly engaging during the ‘Future of Plastics in Packaging’ debate.

The daily keynote speakers, Lord Mark Price, who discussed ‘How to Brexit-proof your business’ and Jonathan Warburton, Chairman of Warburtons, who shared his personal experiences of ‘Building a Sustainable Business’, both proved overwhelmingly popular, attracting standing-room only audiences each day.

“Walking the aisles, talking to visitors and exhibitors as well as attending the seminars over the three days of the show, I was overwhelmed by the positivity and vibrancy of the show’s atmosphere and the general sense of optimism throughout the industry as a whole,” continues Andrew Mint.

“The technology demonstrations were as popular as ever, with high levels of interest in robotics, vision systems and efficiency saving solutions. However it’s the unique mix of processing equipment and packaging machinery on display, the diversity of applications present and wide range of sectors represented that all contributed to creating the perfect environment to ignite interest, explore new solutions, nurture partnerships as well as secure multi-million pound business deals.”

Education and skills training was also on the agenda, with this year’s show providing a showcase of career inspiration to 60 students from Presdales School in Hertfordshire, who were visiting as part of the PPMA BEST’s latest initiative to attract young talent into the industry.

For Nicola Warburton, a sixth form teacher at Presdales School, the PPMA Show 2018 presented a vibrant, exciting and career inspiring environment for her students.

“A lot of young people aren’t aware of the career choices that are available to them,” explained Nicola. “The PPMA Show has provided our students with a fantastic opportunity to meet people from all aspects of the packaging and processing industry, listen to their inspirational stories and to see first-hand, the breath and diversity that this industry offers in terms of future career possibilities.”

The PPMA Group Industry Awards 2018, which were held during the first night of the PPMA Show, were also a further cause for celebration, recognising manufacturing excellence, technical innovation and outstanding industry achievement.

“The high calibre of award entries this year, demonstrates the skill, talent, creativity, strength and commitment there is in our industry,” concludes Andrew Mint. “This was all very much in evidence throughout this year’s show, clearly indicating the sector has a great deal to celebrate and can look optimistically forward to the future.”

ENDS

**Exhibitor Quotes:**

*“This year’s PPMA Show has been exceptional – the best ever.”* ***James Causebrook, Managing Director, Langguth UK***

*“This year’s PPMA Show has been the best show in the last 10 years. We had a record number of people visit the stand and took over £3.6m worth of orders at the show.”* ***Tony McDonald, Sales & Marketing Director, Ilapak UK***

*“This year was the most successful PPMA show with leads taken 43% up on the previous best year [with] over 55% of enquiries in robotic solutions. The quality and seniority of visitors was impressive [and] came to our stand with intent and purpose.”* ***Dan Rossek, Marketing Manager, Omron UK***

*“The PPMA Show was the busiest we’ve known it for many years. We were busy on the stand from the moment the doors opened.”* ***Richard Pether, Director, Rotech Machines***

*“There’s been an excellent amount of foot traffic here and excellent quality and variety of leads aswell…varying from food to pharmaceutical companies.”* ***Peter Devenny, European Business Development Manager, Palamatic***

*“Every year, for 30 years, we’ve been here at the PPMA Show. It’s one of the best packaging machinery events in the UK [and] we have a good response at every show we go to.”* ***John Blashkiw, Managing Director, Line Equipment.***

*“We have met over 150 new clients that we hadn’t been able to reach, so the PPMA Show 2018 has far exceeded our expectations.”* ***Andrew Cox, Managing Director, Cox & Plant***

*“The PPMA Show always has a vast range of visitors we want to meet.”*

***Jacky Fricker, Sales Director, Payper***

*“We have been attending the PPMA Show for several years, and have really seen the benefits. We’ve had some very good leads this year which is fantastic…”* ***Peter Krawczuk, Managing Director, Karmelle***

*“We’ve had meetings with very senior people and key decision makers…..”* ***Fernando Freitas, Sales & Marketing Director, Active8Robotics***

*“The people attending the PPMA Show this year seemed to be serious buyers looking for flexible ways to enhance packaging efficiency….”* ***David Jahn, Director, Brillopak***

*“It’s not just a great show to identify potential customers, it’s also a great networking event.”* ***Andy Beal, Managing Director, GIC***

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editor:**

**About the PPMA Group**

The PPMA Group is the UK’s leading trade association comprising the Processing and Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA), British Automation & Robot Association (BARA) and UK Industrial Vision Association (UKIVA). Its mission is to actively help its 500+ members through services, tools and initiatives to thrive in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

**PPMA BEST** (Business Education, Skills and Training)

PPMA BEST was established by the PPMA Group as a charitable trust in 2014 to encourage young people to enter and develop a career in engineering within the processing, packaging, robotics, automation and industrial vision supply industries through education, training and support.

The aim of PPMA BEST is to address the on-going skills shortage and tackling short and longer-term recruitment needs.

**Issued on behalf of the PPMA Group of Associations by AD Communications.**

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