*Press Release*

6th June 2018

**Countdown begins to the UK’s leading Processing & Packaging Machinery event**

***The PPMA Show to celebrate its 30th anniversary at the NEC Birmingham 25-27 September 2018***

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the PPMA Show will return to the NEC Birmingham from 25-27 September 2018 to showcase the latest innovations in smart manufacturing, processing technology and packaging machinery, aimed to increase production line efficiencies and enhance business performance and profitability. New to the show this year will be the Enterprise Zone, which will offer visitors a focal point for learning, networking, discovery and live debate.

Presenting the biggest and most comprehensive line-up of production technologies and solutions for the food and beverage, pharmaceutical, toiletries and FMCG sectors, visitors to the show will see 350 exhibitors representing 1,500 brands, all under one roof. Leading players already confirmed include Schneider Electric, Ishida Europe, Bosch, ABB and Omron Electronics UK, creating an unrivalled platform to connect, engage and network with suppliers and industry peers.

Commenting on the forthcoming show, Dr. Andrew Mint, Chief Executive Officer, PPMA Group of Associations said, “Our 30th anniversary show comes at a time when UK manufacturing is enjoying its longest period of expansion since 1968 and these positive signs will undoubtedly boost confidence throughout our sector. Against this future optimism, the PPMA Show 2018 looks set to be one of the biggest and best to date, where visitors can benefit from an unsurpassed skill set of experience, expertise and industry knowledge and witness the latest processing and packaging technologies in real-time demonstrations.”

**The Enterprise Zone**

The Enterprise Zone will include a series of educational features including live workshops, presentations, interactive discussions, question and answer sessions and panel debate covering key topical issues and industry trends. The keynote address will be delivered by Lord Mark Price, Minister of State for Trade and Investment who will bring his years of experience as Managing Director of Waitrose and Deputy Chairman of The John Lewis Partnership to the podium.

The morning of day two will focus on ‘The Future of Food Manufacturing’ hosted by Craig Leadley of scientific, technical and advisory services organisation [Campden](https://www.campdenbri.co.uk/) BRI. With presentations from the National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NFCM), the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), and Campden BRI, the session will cover robotics and automation, augmented reality and the virtual factory, as well as preservation technologies, food safety management and culture, and conclude with an interactive discussion.

There will be a full speaker programme running throughout the show, delivered by a line-up of high profile and respected industry experts. Presentations and case studies will offer real examples of manufacturing best practice and excellence in processing and packaging production aimed to motivate and inspire visitors to increase efficiencies, explore new opportunities and take their businesses forward.

Networking will also be a highlight of the Enterprise Zone, with dedicated meeting areas and organised activities to facilitate engagement and connection with industry peers.

The Enterprise Zone will also feature a helpdesk and a free advice service for small start-up ventures and entrepreneurs as part of the PPMA’s new Start-up Ambassador Programme. Visitors will be matched and introduced to specialist knowledge experts according to specific requirements, who will be available during the show to offer advice, guidance and assistance. Also present in the zone will be the British Plastics Federation (BPF) to discuss its latest developments in materials and handling technology.

**PPMA Group Industry Awards 2018**

Celebrating industry excellence and recognising innovation and smart manufacturing, the prestigious PPMA Group Industry Awards ceremony and three-course gala dinner will move to the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel at the NEC. This year, the event, which will take place on the evening of the 25 September, the first day of the PPMA Show 2018, will be hosted by TV presenter and comedian Brian Conley and include two new award categories; ‘Customer Service’ and ‘PPMA Best’. For further information and to enter, visit: <https://www.ppmashow.co.uk/awards/ppma-group-industry-awards>

Dr. Mint continues, “Having consulted with exhibitors and show visitors, we know that there is still a tremendous appetite to seek out new innovations, technologies and solutions and to discover the unexpected. We therefore look forward to opening the doors of the PPMA Show 2018 and celebrate its milestone anniversary with some of the biggest and brightest manufacturing leaders.”

**Free Visitor Registration**

Registration for the PPMA Show 2018 is now open.

To register for your FREE visitor badge, visit the PPMA Show website at: <https://www.ppmashow.co.uk>.

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editor:**

**About the PPMA Show**

The PPMA Show is the UK’s leading production line event for processing and packaging machinery. Taking place at the NEC, Birmingham from 25-27 September 2018, the exhibition showcases the latest innovations in processing and packaging machinery and is attended by thousands of manufacturers of food, pharmaceuticals, toiletries and FMCG, contract packers and more. <http://www.ppmashow.co.uk/>

The PPMA Show and PPMA Group Industry Awards are organised by the Processing and Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA).

**About the PPMA Group**

The PPMA Group of Associations is the UK’s leading non-profit 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.

Its *PPMA Show* and *PPMA Total Show* exhibitions are hailed as the UK’s unmissable, free-to-attend, processing and packaging machinery events and in 2017 it launched the first UKIVA Machine Vision Conference and Exhibition. <http://www.ppma.co.uk>

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

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