

Afera European Tape Week Programme
11th Technical Seminar
68th Annual Conference
22-26 September 2025
Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki, Greece

**“Navigating the Future of Adhesive Tapes:
Transforming Challenges into Opportunities”**

Monday, 22 September 2025

12.00 – 19.00	<i>Check-in at Afera registration desk – Hotel Lobby</i>
09.00 – 12.30	Afera Technical Committee Meeting – Room: Ephesus II+III Afera Marketing Committee Meeting – Room: Epidauros I
12.30 – 14.00	Networking Luncheon for TC + MKC + SC Members – Prefunction Area
14.00 – 17.30	Afera Steering Committee Meeting – Room: Epidauros I
19.00 – 21.00	Opening dinner Technical Seminar <i>An informal networking dinner at the Hotel restaurant veranda, exclusively for Technical Seminar attendees and all Committee Members.</i>

Tuesday, 23 September 2025

09.00 – 19.00	<i>Check-in at Afera registration desk – Hotel Lobby</i>
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Conference Room – Grand Ballroom

Session 1: New PSA Chemistries

Session chairman: Reinhard Storbeck

09.00 – 09.10	Opening remarks by the TechSem and Session 1 Chairman <i>Reinhard Storbeck, Director of R&D at tesa SE (Germany) / Afera Technical Committee Chairman</i>
09.10 – 09.30	Biodegradable polymers: Recent advances in sustainability of acrylic dispersions for PSAs <i>Prof. Nicholas Ballard, Research Associate at Polymat-University of the Basque Country (Spain)</i>
09.30 – 09.50	LED UV-curable acrylics / hotmelt PSA

*Moritz Arnold, PD Chemist for Acrylic UV HM PSAs
at Henkel AG & Co. KGaA (Germany)*

- 09.50 – 10.10 **LED bulbs for curing of PSA**
Petra Burger, Process Development Engineer at Dr. Hönle AG (Germany)
- 10.10 – 10.40 **Networking coffee break – Prefunction Area**
- 10.40 – 11.00 **Sticky secrets from nature: Bio-inspired adhesion for innovative material**
Sidney Rostan, Founder & CEO at BIOXEGY (France)
- 11.00 – 11.20 **Faster drying of water-based PSAs for specialty tapes: Improving drying behaviour by polymer design**
Dr. Christoph Scholten, Principal Scientist - Application Development, Adhesives at Synthomer Deutschland GmbH (Germany) / Afera Technical Committee Member
- 11.20 – 11.40 **Intrinsically flame-retardant polymers**
Anita Barni, Sustainability & Innovation Director at ICAP-SIRA Chemicals and Polymers SpA (Italy) / Afera Marketing Committee Member
- 11.40 – 12.25 **Panel discussion** with speakers and audience Q&A
- 12.25 – 13.30 **Business Luncheon – Prefunction Area**

Conference Room – Grand Ballroom

Session 2: New Perspectives

Session chairman: Christoph Scholten

- 13.30 – 13.50 **High solid content tackifier dispersions: Less water is more sustainable**
Dr. Stephan Kobben, Global R&D Associate Adhesives at Lawter, Inc. (The Netherlands)
- 13.50 – 14.10 **Improve mechanical testing results with automation**
Oskar Gnant, Head of Sales – Automatisierung at ZwickRoell GmbH & Co. KG (Germany)
- 14.10 – 14.30 **Full automation in the lab: Latest developments in mixing, formulation, testing and measuring peel adhesion**
Carine Marcos, Sr VP Workflow Design at Chemspeed Technologies AG (Switzerland)
- 14.30 – 15.00 **Networking coffee break – Prefunction Area**
- 15.00 – 15.20 **Combining machine learning with AI to achieve faster development of PSAs**
Stefan Keller, Senior Account Executive at Citrine Informatics (Germany)
- 15.20 – 15.40 **Deep-knowledge integration in AI software for adhesives and coatings**
Marco Schmid, Lead Data Scientist at ai-predict GmbH (Germany)

- 15.40 – 16.00 **AI tool for quicker development projects, including adhesives use cases**
Sarah Najmark, Co-founder and CEO at Osium AI (YC S23) (France)
- 16.00 – 16.45 **Panel discussion** with speakers and audience Q&A
- 18.00 – 19.30 **Cocktail reception**
with hors-d'œuvres – Oceana Poolside Restaurant at Hotel
- 19.30 – **Free evening**
Selection of restaurants available

Wednesday, 24 September 2025

09.00 – 19.00 *Check-in at Afera registration desk – Hotel Lobby*

Conference Room – Grand Ballroom

Session 3: New Production Technologies

Session chairman: Matthias Renka

- 09.00 – 09.20 **UV hot melt coating: An exciting technology, integrated**
Tim Self, Director at TS Converting Equipment Ltd. / Elite Cameron (U.K.)
- 09.20 – 09.40 **TBA**
Mikko Rissanen, Director of Technology at UPM Specialty Papers (Finland)
- 09.40 – 10.00 **Double-sided simultaneous coating station for silicone application**
Konstantin Martynov, Sales Engineer at Kroenert GmbH & Co. KG (Germany)
- 10.00 – 10.30 **Networking coffee break – Prefunction Area**
- 10.30 – 10.50 **Proof of concept: How pyrolysis can be applied to the adhesive tapes industry, its role in sustainability, limitations and opportunities**
Marco Karber, CEO and Founder of AES Autonome Energiesysteme GmbH (Germany)
- 10.50 – 11.10 **Is sustainability just a PCF value?**
Ian Grace, Technical Sales Manager at artimelt (Switzerland) / Afera Technical Committee Member
- 11.10 – 11.55 **Panel discussion** with speakers and audience Q&A
- 12.00 – 13.00 **Business luncheon: Opening luncheon of 68th Afera Annual Conference – Prefunction Area**

Conference Room – Grand Ballroom

Joint Session of TechSem and Annual Conference: Sustainability and Regulation

Session chairmen: Ian Grace

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| 13.30 – 13.35 | President's welcome / Opening of 68th Annual Conference
<i>Evert Smit, Afera President</i> |
| 13.35 – 13.40 | Setting the stage by Conference hosts
<i>Sonja Haug, Global ESG, Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs Manager at Loparex (Germany) / Afera Marketing Committee Chairperson</i>
<i>Brenden Drijgers, Marketing Manager at Kraton Corporation (The Netherlands) / Afera Marketing Committee Member</i> |
| 13.40 – 14.20 | Keynote: Chemicals and sustainability: Why is it so hard to do the right thing?
<i>Denis Hicks, Founding Board Member at Triple Helix Group (Belgium)</i> |
| 14.20 – 14.45 | The adhesive tape industry and the doughnut economy, CSRD and quadruple bottom line, incl. a report on PSTC's Tape Week
<i>Evert Smit, Director Scouting for Sustainability, Technology & Innovation at Lohmann GmbH & Co. KG (Germany) / Afera President</i> |
| 14.45 – 15.15 | The Digital Passport and consequences for the tape industry
<i>Dr. Martin Klatt, Head of Product Stewardship Dispersions and Resins – Global Substance and REACH Co-ordinator at BASF (Germany)</i> |
| 15.15 – 15.45 | Networking coffee break – Prefunction Area |
| 15.45 – 16.10 | Afera's Flagship Sustainability Programme (AFSP): Key learnings and updates on driving sustainability in the adhesive tapes business
<i>Karla Pastor, Sustainability Project Manager at Afera (The Netherlands)</i> |
| 16.10 – 16.35 | Adhesive tapes regulation in Europe: Afera Regulatory Working Group report on Afera's latest actions and upcoming topics
<i>Pablo Englebienne, Regulatory Affairs and Sustainability Manager at Afera (The Netherlands)</i> |
| 16.35 – 17.00 | The E.U. Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) and its implications for the European adhesive tape industry
<i>Speaker TBA – European Commission (Belgium)</i> |
| 17.00 – 17.45 | Panel discussion with speakers and audience Q&A |
| 19.00 – 23.00 | Welcome cocktails & dinner – Cocktails & Dinner: Oceana Poolside Restaurant at Hotel (Dress code: smart casual) |

Thursday, 25 September 2025

Conference Room – Grand Ballroom

Risk Management & the Global Economy

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| 09.00 – 09.05 | Setting the stage by Conference hosts |
| 09.05 – 09.35 | The global economic outlook: How will Europe do?
Andrea Boltho, Since 2007 Emeritus Fellow / Director of Economics at University of Oxford (U.K.) |
| 09.30 – 10.00 | The Trump regime's economic and public policy implications for the U.S. and Europe's adhesives industries
Bill Allmond, President of The Adhesive & Sealant Council (ASC)(U.S.) |
| 10.00 – 10.25 | The financial impact of sustainability within the chemicals industry
<i>Speaker from PWC (Greece)</i> |
| 10.25 – 10.55 | Networking coffee break – Prefunction Area |
| 10.55 – 11.20 | Thriving in a time of turbulence as a larger multinational player in the adhesive tapes value chain
<i>Sam Strijckmans, CEO of Nitto EMEA and Executive Vice President of Nitto Denko Corporation (Belgium)</i> |
| 11.20 – 11.45 | The pricing of raw materials: Renewable materials and their effect on future-proofing adhesive tapes
<i>Jan Noordegraaf, Managing Director of Innograaf BV (The Netherlands)</i> |
| 11.45 – 12.10 | Change management in a VUCA world: Building scenarios and utilising other decision-making tools for successfully leading necessary transition from a human point of view
<i>Waltraud Gläser, Organisational Consultant, Change Manager, Moderator, Sparring Partner for Decision-Makers (Germany)</i> |
| 12.10 – 12.40 | Panel discussion with speakers and audience Q&A |
| 12.40 – 13.40 | Business Luncheon – Prefunction Area |

Conference Room – Grand Ballroom

Industry Innovation & Market Development

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| 13.40 – 13.45 | Setting the stage by Conference hosts |
| 13.45 – 14.10 | Harnessing AI for smarter decision-making in the adhesive tapes industry
<i>Sarah Najmark, Co-founder and CEO of Osium AI (YC S23) (France)</i> |
| 14.10 – 14.35 | Futureproofing the adhesive tapes industry: Afera's strategy updated for 2025-2030 |

Melanie Ott, CEO of artimelt AG (Switzerland)

- 14.35 – 15.00 **Family-owned SME commodity tapes manufacturers facing the European market: Opportunities and challenges**
Carlo Maria Righetti, CEO of NAR (Italy)
- 15.00 – 15.30 **Networking coffee break – Prefunction Area**
- 15.30 – 15.55 **Raw materials for the adhesives industry: Trends and challenges in 2025 and beyond**
Dirk Weckesser, Senior Manager Scenario Planning & Strategic Projects, Polymers, at Wacker Chemie AG (Germany)
- 15.55 – 16.20 **Acrylic monomers used in SBPSA, WBPSA and UVPSA: The global situation of monomers, including geopolitical evolution and energy cost differences among the regions, and sustainability (biobased and bio-attributed monomers)**
Pierre Larnicol, Global Marketing Director at Arkema (France)
- 16.20 – 16.45 **Adhesive tapes in domestic appliances, electronics, automotive or construction: Market trends, challenges and opportunities**
Speaker TBD
- 16.45 – 17.15 **Panel discussion** with speakers and audience Q&A
- 19.00 – 23.00 Drinks and dinner at [Mistral Seaside Bar & Restaurant](#)
Meet in the hotel lobby at 19.00 for group departure by bus

Friday, 26 September 2025

Conference Room – Grand Ballroom

Current Tape Applications & Technology Highlights

- 09.00 – 09.05 **Setting the stage by Conference hosts**
- 09.05 – 09.30 **The evolving landscape of battery technology and its impact on sustainable mobility, including regulatory shifts and customer-centric ESG approaches**
Keon Woo Lee, Senior Manager PD Battery Solutions at Henkel AG & Co. KGaA (Germany)
- 09.30 – 9.55 **Global battery value chain overview: Trends and insights**
Anthony Bonnet, Scientific Director of Materials for Energy at Arkema (France)
- 09.55 – 10.20 **Revolutionising the tape industry with innovative adhesive solutions: How adhesives are transforming the tapes industry**
Jeff Burrington, Senior Application Specialist at H.B. Fuller (U.K.) and Anna Zieba, Global Marketing Manager at H.B. Fuller (U.S.)
- 10.20 – 10.50 **Networking coffee break – Prefunction Area**

- 10.50 – 11.15 **Packaging adhesive tapes: Emerging trends, the green transition and related opportunities**
Dr. Tobias Winkler, Laboratory Manager Packaging, Masking & Repairing Solutions at tesa SE (Germany)
- 11.15 – 11.35 **Global and European market data report update: AWA's Global specialty pressure sensitive tapes market 2025 plus trends and other insights**
Corey Reardon, President & CEO, and Ephraim Angelo Reyes, Consultant, both at AWA Alexander Watson Associates (The Netherlands)
- 11.35 – 12.00 **Global and European market data: Freedonia Global Pressure Sensitive Tapes 2025 industry report**
Brenden Drijgers, Marketing Manager at Kraton Corporation (The Netherlands) / Afera Marketing Committee Member, Prepared with Freedonia (U.S.)
- 12.00 – 12.30 **Panel discussion** with speakers and audience Q&A
- 12.30 – 12.40 **Putting the 2025 Annual Conference and European adhesive tape business into perspective**
Evert Smit, Afera President
- 12.40 – 12.45 **Wrap-up by Hosts: Key themes and learnings**
- 12.45 – 14.15 **Closing business luncheon – Prefunction Area**