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# Speakers

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# Speaker Profiles

## Matthias Kümmerle

President, Bucher Emhart Glass

Matthias Kümmerle has worked at Bucher Emhart Glass since 2011 and was appointed President in 2023. With a strong background in R&D and engineering, he has played a key role in shaping the company's strategic direction and driving innovation.

Now leading the global organization, he continues to focus on advancing automation, sustainability and digitalization across the glass manufacturing industry.



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## Klaus Abberger

KOF Swiss Economic Institute, ETH Zurich

Klaus Abberger heads the Business Tendency Surveys department at the KOF Swiss Economic Institute, ETH Zurich. His work focuses on analyzing business sentiment and short-term economic tendencies across sectors and regions.

With expertise in survey-based indicators and economic forecasting, he provides valuable insights into the dynamics driving business cycles and economic expectations.



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## Boris Planer

Expert for the future of retail, FMCG and consumers at Zukunftsinstitut

Boris Planer is a renowned analyst of retail and consumer trends, focusing on the future of FMCG and shopping behaviour at the Zukunftsinstitut. His work bridges economic forecasting and cultural insight to understand how societal shifts shape markets.

With years of experience advising global retailers and manufacturers, he explores how changing values, lifestyles and demographics are transforming the way people buy, consume and connect with brands.



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# Speaker Profiles

## **Dominic Cakebread**

Packaging Market Research Consultant

After 42 years in international packaging market research and consultancy, Dominic retired in January 2025 but retains a strong interest in packaging. He has returned as an independent consultant on an ad hoc basis, advising leading brands and manufacturers on how packaging can adapt to market and technical change, drive value, and meet environmental goals. He has extensive experience in market intelligence and consulting, holding senior global roles and working with leading packaging suppliers across all substrates.



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## **Fabrice Rivet**

Technical Director, FEVE

As Technical Director at FEVE, Fabrice Rivet is perfectly placed to deliver his presentation on how EU emissions legislation will continue to impact the glass industry.

In particular, Fabrice's talk will focus on the two main legislative trends which could have the biggest effect: decarbonizing our economy and making it more circular. Here he will explore the risks and the benefits of the EU decarbonization strategy, the updates to the Emission Trading Directive and the Circular Economy Package.



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## **Silparat Watthanakasetr**

CEO, BG Container Glass Public Company Limited

Silparat Watthanakasetr is CEO of Bangkok Glass, the leading glass packaging manufacturer in Southeast Asia, known for its commitment to innovation, sustainability and regional expansion.

Under his leadership, the company has advanced its environmental goals while investing in modern production technologies to meet growing demand across diverse industries including food, beverage and pharmaceuticals.



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# Speaker Profiles

## Edson Rossi

Managing Director, Vidroporto

Edson Rossi is Managing Director at Vidroporto, one of Brazil's leading glass packaging manufacturers. Under his leadership, the company has focused on sustainable growth, technological modernization and expanding its role in the South American market.

With decades of experience in the glass industry, Mr. Rossi brings deep insight into the operational and strategic challenges of running a modern glass plant in a rapidly changing economic and environmental landscape.



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## Paul Curnow

Chief Executive Officer, Ardagh Glass Packaging

Paul Curnow is the CEO of Ardagh Glass Packaging-Africa. His journey with the group began in January 1998 when he joined Consol, later acquired by Ardagh Group in 2022.

Over his 27-year tenure, starting as an Engineer in training, Paul advanced through key managerial positions before becoming CEO in 2021. Renowned for his sharp wit and dynamic leadership, Paul has deep experience across all areas of the business having headed up the engineering, manufacturing, supply chain and sales functions before taking on the CEO role.



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## Richard van Breda

Global Glass Lead, Bacardi

Richard van Breda is responsible for Bacardi's global glass packaging requirements. Formerly Corporate Development Director at Bucher Emhart Glass, he has also consulted across the industry and spent much of his career at SABMiller, overseeing global packaging for beer and Coca-Cola operations.

With a degree in Mechanical Engineering, an MBA in Supply Chain and Finance from the University of Durham, and as a registered Pr Eng, Richard began his career at Consol Glass in South Africa and served as a non-Executive Director of The Glass Recycling Company.



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# Speaker Profiles

## Stefan Klaiber

Senior Packaging Engineer, Nestlé

Stefan Klaiber is a Senior Packaging Engineer at Nestlé, where he works at the forefront of sustainable packaging development for one of the world's largest food and beverage companies.

With a strong engineering background and a focus on innovation, Mr. Klaiber plays a key role in developing solutions that reduce environmental impact while maintaining functionality, safety and consumer appeal.



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## Jane Muncke

Managing Director and Chief Scientific Officer, Food Packaging Forum FPF

Since August 2012, Jane Muncke has served the Food Packaging Forum as Managing Director and Chief Scientific Officer.

She holds a doctorate in environmental toxicology and an MSc in environmental science from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETHZ). With the world's attention increasingly on the effect it has on the environment, she focuses on the effect it has on our food. How do chemicals in food packaging affect human health and the environment? How are different stakeholders tackling the challenge?



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## Josh Heaton

Head of Growth Strategy, ArmstrongB2B®

Josh Heaton leads the strategy function at ArmstrongB2B®, a specialist industrial marketing agency that helps international brands to drive commercial growth through insight-led strategy and creative excellence.

Drawing on insights from behavioural science and marketing principles, Josh helps brands understand the motivations and decision-making drivers that influence complex buying environments. With a background in integrated communications and brand positioning, he develops strategies that deliver measurable impact across international markets.



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# Speaker Profiles

## **Werner Gessner**

Vice President Sales & Marketing, Bucher Emhart Glass

Werner Gessner is Vice President Sales & Marketing at Bucher Emhart Glass, where he leads global commercial strategy and customer engagement. He has been with the company since 2013, following senior roles at SIG and KHS GmbH. Werner brings deep industry knowledge and international experience, helping shape the future of glass manufacturing through a strong focus on market needs, innovation and sustainable growth.



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## **Jacques Sanche**

Chief Executive Officer, Bucher Industries

Jacques Sanche has served as CEO of Bucher Industries since 2016, bringing extensive leadership experience from the international engineering and manufacturing sectors. He previously held CEO roles at companies including Belimo Holding and held senior positions at Mettler Toledo. At Bucher, Jacques drives the group's strategic growth with a focus on innovation, operational performance, and long-term value creation across its global businesses.



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## **Thomas Bewer**

Senior Director Forming Technology, Bucher Emhart Glass

Thomas Bewer is the Senior Director Forming Technology at Bucher Emhart Glass, where he leads global innovation and technology development. With a strong background in engineering and automation, he has been instrumental in advancing the company's digital capabilities and machine technologies. Thomas works closely with customers and teams worldwide to deliver solutions that support greater efficiency, quality and sustainability in glass manufacturing.



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# Speaker Profiles

## Christian von Ah

Senior Director Automation & Inspection Technology, Bucher Emhart Glass

Christian von Ah has been with Bucher Emhart Glass for several years, bringing deep expertise in glass manufacturing technologies. He focuses on advancing automation and process optimization to enhance efficiency and product quality. Christian plays a vital role in supporting the company's innovation and sustainability initiatives across its global operations.



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## Niki Estner

Software Development Manager, Bucher Emhart Glass

Niki Estner serves as Software Development Manager at Bucher Emhart Glass, where he leads the development of AI-driven inspection technologies. Since overseeing the adoption of AI for glass quality inspection in 2017, he has continued to advance Emhart Glass Vision's capabilities across its inspection portfolio, improving performance, reliability and automation for container glass manufacturers.



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## Guido Stebner

Chief Technical Officer of Vetropack Holding AG

As Chief Technical Officer of Vetropack Holding AG, Guido Stebner is responsible for the operational and technological development and the innovation activities of Vetropack Group, a leading European glass packaging manufacturer. Before joining Vetropack in 2021, he worked for almost 30 years in the steel industry, gaining vast technical and leadership experience in senior management roles across several companies and countries.

Since 2024, he has served as Chairman of IPGR. With a strong academic background, he drives next-generation technologies improving efficiency, quality and sustainability.



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# Speaker Profiles

## Oliver Wiegand

Former Managing Partner, Wiegand-Glas

Oliver Wiegand is former Managing Partner at Wiegand-Glas, a fourth-generation family-owned company and one of Germany's leading container glass manufacturers, known for its commitment to innovation and sustainability.

Under his leadership, Wiegand-Glas championed cutting-edge technology, energy efficiency and closed-loop recycling to meet the evolving demands of customers and regulators.



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## Alexander Sorg

Managing Partner, SORG Group

Here we welcome Alexander Sorg to deliver a talk on SORG's rapidly increasing expertise in the field of hybrid melting, a powerful tool for sustainable glass production.

He will talk about the path towards sustainable glass production through modern hybrid furnace technology, the CLEAN Melter®.

SORG recently commissioned its fourth CLEAN Melter® and Alexander will discuss potential scenarios for hybrid furnaces and is giving some insights into design consequences and the lessons learned so far.



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## Christian Fröba

CEO, Vaider Group

Christian Fröba is CEO of Vaider Group and brings more than two decades of leadership experience in the global glass industry.

A mechanical engineering graduate with an Executive MBA from ESSEC and Mannheim Business School, he combines technical expertise with strategic vision. He has held senior roles at Bucher Emhart Glass and Heinz-Glas, building extensive experience across glass production, decoration, product development, supply chain management and sustainability.





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# Speaker Profiles

## **Dominik Orzol**

Managing Director, International Partners in Glass Research

Dominik Orzol leads IPGR, a global research alliance of glass manufacturers focused on innovation and future-ready technologies for container glass.

With a background in material science, he plays a key role in coordinating research, enabling cross-industry collaboration, and advancing solutions for decarbonization and digitalization.



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## **Michael Heidan**

Founder & Managing Director, ReViSalt GmbH

Michael Heidan is the founder and managing director of ReViSalt GmbH, driving innovation in chemical glass strengthening technologies.

With a strong background in international business development and strategic partnerships, he focuses on scaling breakthrough solutions for industrial glass applications. Under his leadership, ReViSalt pioneers fast, cost-efficient, and sustainable strengthening processes, enabling new opportunities across packaging, architecture, and solar industries.



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# Speaker Profiles

## **Daniel Schippan**

Designated President, Bucher Emhart Glass

Daniel Schippan will become President and CEO of Bucher Emhart Glass on January 1, 2026, succeeding Matthias Kümmerle. He is the founder of cm.project.ing, established in 2007, which he has successfully led for nearly two decades. Schippan holds a master's degree in metallurgy and materials engineering and a PhD from RWTH Aachen University. His different positions as Head of R&D, Head of Glass Technology as well as Head of Growth Investments, Plant Manager and CPO enabled him to gain vast technological and management experience.



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## **Patrick Crous**

Vice President Projects & Service, Bucher Emhart Glass

Patrick Crous is Vice President Projects & Service at Bucher Emhart Glass since 2023, where he leads global project delivery and service operations. Prior to this role, he was Vice President of Technology. Before joining Bucher Emhart Glass, Patrick spent more than 17 years at Consol Glass, where he held various technical and leadership positions. He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and an Honours degree in Technology Management from the University of Pretoria.

