The foundation for the 2018 30th Awards for Packaging Innovation has been set with the selection of the judges who will decide which packaging solutions exhibit excellence in technological advancement, responsible packaging and enhanced user experience from the pool of global nominations.

The panel is instrumental in preserving the integrity of the industry’s longest running, independently judged awards program. Hailing from around the globe and across the packaging value chain, they bring a wide and diverse perspective that enables them to thoroughly assess which entries are game-changing packaging innovations.

Meet the 2018 Judging Panel:

**Lead Judge David Luttenberger, CPP – Global Packaging Director, Mintel Group Ltd., USA**

David Luttenberger is the global packaging director at Mintel Group Ltd., the leading market intelligence service serving the global CPG and packaging converter markets. David leads a team of seasoned packaging analysts and helps guide Mintel's global packaging-related research and analysis efforts. He has been in the packaging industry for 25 years and previously worked as the former vice president and packaging strategist at CEB Iconoculture. He has earned “Lifetime Certified Packaging Professional” status and has been recognized by the former Packaging & Technology Integrated Solutions as a Top Packaging Thought Leader.

**Gian de Belder – Principal Scientist for Packaging R&D, Procter & Gamble, Europe**

Gian de Belder is a principle scientist and packaging technologist at Procter & Gamble (P&G), one of the largest CPG companies in the world. In his 19-year career at P&G, Gian has helped drive R&D into sustainable packaging across the company. He is a board member of Petcore Europe (the association representing the complete PET value chain in Europe) and a co-chairman of the Packaging Task Force at the International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (A.I.S.E.).

**Jerry Duan, Global Logistics Packaging R&D Director and Principal Packaging Expert, JD.com, China**

Jerry Duan is the global logistics packaging R&D director and principal packaging expert for global e-commerce company JD.com. Jerry works to implement reduction packaging, biodegradable packaging and recyclable packaging. In 2016, he initiated the Green Supply Chain Initiative, focusing on implementing environmental protection in the supply chain of e-commerce to reduce packaging use by 2020. He received a Packaging Engineering Master’s Degree from Jiaonnan University.
Tanner Florindo, R&D Technical Director, Valfilm, Brazil

Tanner Florindo is a R&D technical director at Valfilm Group, the largest organization in the segment specializing in developing, manufacturing and marketing polyethylene flexible packaging. He has a variety of roles during his more than 18-year tenure at Valfilm as a chemical engineer. Tanner holds a Master’s Degree from the Universidade de Sao Paulo in Materials Engineering.

Josu Garcia, Product Application Manager, Ulma Packaging, Spain

Josu Garcia is a product application manager at Ulma Packaging, the leading complete packaging solution provider to the food, medical device, personal care and industrial industries. Josu manages market trends and the needs of consumers. In his 22-year career at Ulma Packaging, Josu has helped drive product development of the flow pack and shrink machine business.

Alix Grabowski, Senior Program Officer for Sustainability R&D, WWF, USA

Alix Grabowski is the senior program officer for sustainability R&D at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Prior to joining WWF, she worked as a research assistant at Michigan State University. Alix holds a Master’s Degree in Packaging Science from Michigan State University.

Chris Hartwell, AP Packaging Innovation and Development Manager, Fonterra Co-Operative Group Limited, New Zealand

Chris Hartwell is the packaging innovation and development manager at Fonterra Co-Operative Group Limited. Chris is one of Fonterra’s subject-matter experts for global packaging regulations, and is responsible for the identification and commercialization of novel packaging and packing technologies. He previously worked as a packaging manager for Unilever in New Zealand.
Dr. Kim Houchens, Ph.D., Director of Customer Packaging Experience, Amazon, USA

Dr. Kim Houchens, Ph.D., is the director of customer packaging experience at Amazon. Kim leads the team to reinvent packaging for the e-commerce marketplace. Before joining Amazon, Kim spent 20 years leading packaging R&D organizations for glass and plastic packaging companies that used computational modeling and high-performance computing to develop new technologies that reduced packaging waste and improved sustainability outcomes. She previously worked as the senior director of innovations of enterprise analytics for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Marianne Rosner Klimchuk, Professor, Fashion Institute, USA

Marianne Rosner Klimchuk is a professor of the newly formed Communication Design Pathways Department at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. As the head of the Packaging Design Bachelor of Fine Arts program for more than 20 years, Marianne was instrumental in building the programs curriculum to meet the brand and packaging design professions’ academic standards and objectives. She also founded the design strategy advisory firm DesignPracticum, where she works with companies on integrating design thinking, strategy and best practices in the consumer brand packaging design sector. She has co-authored two books: Really Good Packaging Design (Rockport) and Packaging Design: Successful Product Branding from Concept to Shelf (Wiley).

Qiang Lu, Ph.D., Vice President, R&D Asia Pacific, Bemis, China

Dr. Qiang Lu, Ph.D., is the vice president of R&D at Bemis Asia Pacific, where he leads the regional R&D and technical service teams to support business growth in the region. Before joining Bemis, he worked for The Dow Chemical Company for nine years in the flexible packaging industry, including polyolefin resins and laminating adhesives. He holds a bachelor of science degree in polymer science and engineering from Zhejiang University, China, and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Patrick Poitevin, Principal Scientist – Packaging Group, Mondelez International, United Kingdom

Patrick Poitevin is principle scientist for the packaging group at Mondelez International, based in Bournville in the UK. Patrick works globally, across many areas focused on innovation, digital and digital-associated technologies. He has nearly 40 years of experience managing various aspects of packaging, from innovation to quality assurance.
Gisela Schulzinger, ABRE – Brazilian Packaging Association, Brazilian Packaging Association (ABRE), Brazil

Gisela Schulzinger is the president of ABRE-Brazilian Association of Packaging and founder of Haus Design. Gisela is a specialist in innovation and developing projects supporting a culture of innovation, design thinking and strategic design. She has been working in the design area for more than 25 years and has an academic role as professor of the ESPM Design undergraduate course.

Dr. Warren Shaw, Ph.D., Vice President for Innovation & Product Development, Huhtamaki, Germany

Dr. Warren Shaw, Ph.D., is the vice president for innovation and product development for flexible packaging at Huhtamaki, a global food and drink packaging company. He is responsible for driving strategic innovation activities in areas critical to Huhtamaki's business development globally as well as ensuring an effective and collaborative product development process across business units in Europe, Middle East, Africa, India and Southeast Asia. He holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Sydney and has lived and worked in Australia, the United States and now Germany.

Tim Sykes, Chief Editor, Packaging Europe, United Kingdom

Tim Sykes is the chief editor at Packaging Europe, the leading intelligence resource for European packaging professionals. He helps produce a bi-monthly magazine and daily multilingual news feed. In his 10-year career at Packaging Europe, he has overseen the transition from a printed to an online publication. Tim previously worked as a lecturer at the University of London for Russian language and translation.

Ralf Wiechmann, Senior Product Manager for Flexible Packaging, Reifenhäuser GmbH & Co. KG Maschinenfabrik, Germany

Ralf Wiechmann serves as the senior product manager of flexible packaging for The Reifenhäuser Group Reifenhäuser GmbH & Co. KG Maschinenfabrik, which manages manufacturing and distribution technologies and components for the plastics extrusion market in Germany and internationally. Wiechmann has worked in a variety of roles at the company, including as a project manager for recycling technology and as the head of the company’s Blown Film Academy.
For more information, visit

www.DowPackagingAwards.com