

RESCHEDULED DATE FOR WORLD CONFECTIONERY CONFERENCE

The World Confectionery Conference is set to be rescheduled for Friday 26 March 2021, in response to the ongoing international situation surrounding coronavirus.

Moving the event from its original date of 11 September this year will enable us to deliver it to its full potential, as businesses continue to adapt amid challenging trading conditions during the next few months.

To date, we have had an encouragingly strong response to plans for our key sector showcase. It is due to feature leading enterprises across confectionery, snacks and bakery markets from around the globe.

So, it is with safety measures for participants and visitors in mind, as well as providing the means for us to hold the conference in its physical format as we originally envisaged, that our decision has been made.

A note of thanks is owed to event sponsor Cargill, plus our keynote speakers



Brussels remains the destination for the World Confectionery Conference.

including Caobisco trade association, Fairtrade, Innova Market Insights and confectionery specialist Andy Baxendale, and all others taking part, for their continued support as we progress with our renewed plans for 2021.

The conference venue remains the same, the Brussels Marriott Hotel, Grand Place, Belgium, so we very much hope that you will all be able to join with us to celebrate some of the many key achievements within our industry through our

event programme including the accompanying World Confectionery Awards. The deadline for entries regarding this element has now been extended to 10 January, 2021.

For further details regarding sponsorship and the final available event speaking opportunities, contact events manager Kyra O'Sheen at kyraosheen@bellpublishing.com as well as registration for the conference remaining open through www.confectionery-conference.com

Expansion sees Cargill gain first Asian chocolate processing site in India

Cargill has confirmed a deal with a local chocolate manufacturer in Western India, as it responds to market growth in the region through creating its first manufacturing site within Asia.

As the global agricultural and confectionery company confirmed to *Confectionery Production*, its latest facility will create 100 jobs and is set to be fully operational by mid-2021 and will initially produce 10,000 tonnes of chocolate compounds.

The site will offer manufacturers in the region

access to a range of confectionery, bakery and ice cream applications, with the key project following on the heels of major investment for its chocolate processing facilities in Belgium.

According to the business, consumer preference for chocolate has increased for the region with a shift from traditional sweets to chocolate gifting and year-round consumption of ice cream besides baked goods, as well as within premium chocolate products.

The company noted that



these trends have driven an average annual growth of 13-14% within the domestic market, making India the world's fastest growing chocolate market, according to Cargill's latest research on regional growth factors.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Innovation lab developed
US-based Malt Products Corporation (MPC), a specialist manufacturer of malted barley extract and other natural sweeteners, has designed an Innovations Lab to help firms in the sector, including confectionery markets with ingredients testing.

As the company noted, its new facilities at its Minneapolis site will allow customers to experiment with new formulations and gain insight into critical flavour and stability properties, which remain key aspects of new product development. The lab will be used for a wide variety of products, including baked goods, creamers, nut butters, chocolates, confections, dressings and marinades, and plant-based proteins.

President steps down

Messe Düsseldorf, which is set to host next year's Interpack, has confirmed president and CEO Werner Dornscheidt will be leaving his role at the end of this month, after nearly 17 years in his present position.

He has served the business for 37 years, with the organisation praising him for leaving a legacy of profitable, subsidy-free management, digitally-transformed operations, as well as financial stability. Wolfram N. Diener, Messe Düsseldorf's managing director operative business, will take over as chief executive from next month, after three years in post.

Ipack-Ima postponed

The organisers of the Italian Ipack-Ima packaging and processing event have confirmed it is to be rescheduled until 3-6 May 2022, in light of ongoing concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

Staged every three years, the industry showcase, which includes a number of systems and equipment applicable for the confectionery and bakery sectors, had been due to be staged in May 2021, just two months after the postponed Interpack packaging event taking place in Düsseldorf, Germany.