**Aluminium China 2017 puts Spotlight on Auto Industry**

Aluminium China - the biggest event in Asia aluminium industry – attracted more than 21,590 visitors from 80 countries to Shanghai this month with the spotlight firmly on the future of the lightweight auto industry. The event showcased some 500 aluminium makers, processing equipment providers and materials processors from around the world.

The event continued its strong international presence, featuring new exhibitors such as Constellium, Gillespie & Powers, Magma, Ruf, Haehne, Stas and Rex Materials from Germany, France, US, Canada, Russia, Sweden, Australia, Slovenia and Malaysia. Leading domestic and international players included Aluminium Coporation of China, Zhongwang, Hongqiao, Deli, Yiteli, Yunhai, Zhongfu, Yuhang, Yankuang, Chuangxin, UACJ, Deli, Fenglv, Pyrotek, Mingde, Huafeng, SMS, Huangchang and Haomei.

Aluminium China 2017 attracted senior industry figures including Mr. Chen Quanxun, consultant of the State Council and president of China Non-Ferrous Metals Industry Association; Mr. Ron Knapp, Secretary General of International Aluminum Institute, and Mr. Onuki, General Manager of Japan Aluminum Association.

This year’s event focused on lightweight auto with the Development Forum on Connection Technologies for Lightweight Vehicle Structures and the Forged Part Exhibition Zone featuring the latest developments in aluminium welding, connectivity, processing, car body and lightweight chassis technologies. The event also saw the launch of the first Lightweight Vehicle Research Paper in China, addressing lightweight material makers, processors and equipment providers. Keynotes and presentations were provided by experts from the Lightweight Research Department of SAE-China, Böllhoff China and GM China Science Institute.

As a high-quality lightweight material, aluminium also plays a key role in the aerospace and high-speed train sectors. With the rise of subway and light rail transportation infrastructure projects across Chinese cities, advanced materials deep processing was a key industry focus, with discussions and presentations on processing, welding and connectivity.

International visitors to Aluminium China 2017 were given special attention, including a free one-day trip to two factories, Yinbang and Qianxun, while a new online ‘matchmaking’ service offered personalised visitor experiences. The show organiser also launched Reed Connect, an e-platform for trade visitors to follow updates, market information and deal-making opportunities in real-time via their mobile devices. By scanning codes at the venue, exhibitors and visitors were able to access product, technology and device information and arrange face-to-face meetings.

Aluminium China 2018 will return to Shanghai next year from July 18th to July 20th at Shanghai New International Exhibition Centre (SNIEC), while Asia’s only Lightweight Transportation Trade Fair - Lightweight Asia 2018 will take place at the same time and venue.

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