

## Congress Review

## Estal Congress: Strong Cohesion Promotes Innovation

The Estal Congress in Thessaloniki (Greece), which took place from October 1 to 3, 2025, once again demonstrated the importance and power of European industry exchange. The German Association for the Surface Finishing of Aluminum (VOA), the largest member of its European umbrella organization, was heavily involved in organizing the congress in the run-up to the event and intensified its contacts with European players in the industry on site. The biennial congress focused primarily on current developments influenced by the

decisions of the EU Commission, such as the aluminum value chain in a changing Europe, the impact of new EU building regulations on the surface treatment of aluminum, and global market trends. Accompanying this, speakers presented new products, finishing processes, and testing methods designed to further increase the sustainability and quality of the industry. The surface treatment of recycled aluminum also played an important role. In addition, special attention was paid to innovations in the field of resource efficiency



Both the extensive program and the personal, technical discussions provided important inspiration for all participants.

and industrial emissions, as well as forward-looking technologies, such as surface conversion treatments for 3D-printed, additively manufactured aluminum. // [www.voa.de](http://www.voa.de)

## Transaction

## BASF Sells Coatings Division to Carlyle



Aluminum body with thin-film pretreatment, cathodic dip coating, water-based filler, water-based paint, and a two-component clear coat.

BASF and funds managed by global investment firm Carlyle (NASDAQ: CG), in partnership with the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), have entered into a binding agreement regarding the automotive production coatings, automotive refinish coatings and surface technology business units (BASF Coatings). The enterprise value of the transaction is €7.7 billion. The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2026, subject to regulatory approvals. Together with the already com-

pleted sale of the architectural coatings business, the enterprise value of BASF's entire Coatings division after this transaction amounts to €8.7 billion and implies a 2024 EV/EBITDA multiple before special items of around 13. BASF will retain a 40 % stake in the Coatings business and will also receive a pre-tax cash inflow of approximately €5.8 billion upon completion of the transaction. //

[www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com)

## Personnel

## Changes in Management at Frei Lacke

Frei Lacke is a medium-sized company based in Bräunlingen-Döggingen (Germany) that specializes in the development, manufacture, and sale of high-quality coating solutions for industrial applications. The company employs 650 people and operates worldwide.

After 36 years of service and 23 years in management, Hans-Peter Frei will step

down as managing director, member of the executive board, and head of technical disciplines at Frei Lacke on December 31, 2025, and enter retirement. In the future, Dr. Rainer Frei will be responsible for the business as sole managing director. //

[www.freilacke.de](http://www.freilacke.de)



After 36 years of service and 23 years in management, Mr. Hans-Peter Frei will step down as managing director and enter well-deserved retirement.