

NETWORK Connections

A Quarterly Newsletter
of the FPSA Networks

SUMMER 2024

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FPSA

FOOD PRODUCTION SOLUTIONS ASSOCIATION



A Message from the Networks Leadership Chairperson, Brian Krumsee

Hello FPSA Members,

As you've likely noticed, FPSA has been excitedly buzzing this spring. We've embarked on a transformative journey, starting with a significant name change. We are now the Food Production Solutions Association, a shift that signifies our commitment to providing comprehensive solutions for the food production industry. This change brings many benefits, including a more inclusive representation of our diverse membership and a renewed focus on collaboration and innovation across the industry. We believe this change will open new opportunities and pave the way for a brighter future for our members.



Brian Krumsee

You might be curious about why there is a change. It's straightforward yet significant. The pandemic prompted us to reassess our identity, particularly the term processing suppliers. We recognized that it no longer fully represented who we are and what we do. 'Production solutions' better aligns with our diverse membership, encompassing companies offering solutions at every stage of food production. This change is a rebranding and a strategic move to serve our members and the industry better.

For our valued suppliers, rest assured that you will continue to enjoy your existing benefits and resources. We're expanding our offerings to provide even more value to our members. Our new focus on comprehensive solutions and industry-wide collaboration will drive innovation and efficiency in food production. And with this change comes new leadership. Please join me in welcoming our new CEO, Matt Ott. His vision and expertise will undoubtedly propel FPSA to new heights, ensuring we continue to serve our members with excellence and innovation.

But that's not all. In this issue, we're excited to introduce the new Chairs of the Technology Network, who will play a pivotal role in driving discussions and initiatives around cutting-edge technologies shaping the future of food production, as well as a brand-new Vice Chair for the Packaging Network. And regarding new leadership, we'll elect new chairs

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Join FPSA Networks Today!

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FPSA Networks Meetings...

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for the Young Professionals Group this summer. Also, in this newsletter edition, you'll see from March's FPSA conference that the Women's Alliance continued its tradition of leadership in giving back with PACK-IT 2024, showcasing its commitment to making a positive impact within the industry. Their remarkable achievements inspire us all and demonstrate the power of collaboration and dedication.



Change is inevitable, but it's most impactful when done from a position of strength. With a solid financial standing, dedicated leadership, and a growing membership, now is the perfect time to embrace this transformation. FPSA Networks signify our commitment to staying agile, relevant, and forward-thinking in an ever-changing industry. Let's continue to innovate, collaborate, and drive positive change in food production.

Warm regards,
Brian Krumsee
FPSA Networks Leadership Chairman



Networks Updates



Chair: Randy Tharp, *EPSTEIN*

Vice-Chair: Ben Reeder, *The WEBBER/SMITH Group*

Design-Build Network

Founded in October 2023, the Design-Build Network has hit the ground running on several initiatives and efforts. During the Networks Breakfast on March 28th, Chairman Randy Tharp presented on the *ABCs of Design-Build*, while Vice Chairman Ben Reeder served as MC.



Chairman Randy Tharp



Vice Chairman Ben Reeder

During Randy's *ABCs of Design-Build* presentation, he provided a comprehensive overview of the design-build approach for delivering industrial projects:

- *What is Design-Build?* This project delivery method employs a single source for project design and construction, fostering collaboration and teamwork among key stakeholders. Unlike the traditional "Design-Bid-Build" approach, which is sequential and often adversarial, design-build is parallel, performance-based, and emphasizes shared risk.
- *Benefits and Challenges?* Design-build offers earlier cost and schedule definitions, fast-tracked construction, and a collaborative environment, resulting in potentially lower costs and reduced litigation. However, the owner must make early decisions and place their trust in the design-builder.
- *Why Choose Design-Build?* Studies, such as the CII Penn State study, have shown that design-build projects experience less cost and schedule growth than traditional methods.
- *Key Players?* Teams typically include design-build firms, general contractors, architects, engineers, equipment suppliers, special purpose entities, and of course, the client. These teams work collaboratively to meet the project's goals, ensuring early and predictable outcomes.
- *What are the Special Considerations for Food Processing?* The complexity and integration requirements of food processing facilities make design-build particularly beneficial. It offers speed to market, integration of multiple systems, and early involvement of all stakeholders. Food processors should start with a clear idea of project goals, balance scope, schedule, and budget, and select a trustworthy design-builder. Feasibility studies are crucial for initial go/no-go decisions and CAPEX approvals.

This summer, the Design-Build Network will select project managers for the 2025 EATS Production Lines. As part of this process, the Network will distribute a simple interest form for all FPSA Members interested in managing one of the lines. The form will ask for company information, preferred production line, relevant experience, and request a commitment of resources to the effort. Project Managers will be selected in a lottery among interested FPSA members. The goal is to showcase design-build expertise while allowing more companies to gain exposure at the trade show.

This past May, Chris Morse (Dennis Group) presented how design-build project delivery can help customers achieve faster speed to market for their products and facilities. Chris emphasized that design-build streamlines the process through integrated project definition, overlapping design and construction phases, and constant collaboration. By involving stakeholders early and establishing clear goals and risks upfront, rework can be avoided and schedules compressed. Chris also stressed the importance of coordination with equipment suppliers and constructability reviews to integrate process equipment into the facility design seamlessly. This helps maximize efficiency from day one of operations. The presentation generated valuable discussion on best practices for design-build that members are now looking to showcase through educational content and future conference sessions. The Network is committed to promoting this expertise that food and beverage customers rely on to get new products to market faster.

Looking forward, the Network is committed to FPSA's educational efforts for customers in 2024, and the Network will be discussing *Equipment Supplier Led Design-Build – How can Equipment Suppliers play a more prominent role in Design-Build?* Led by Tyler Gompf (Slot Drain Systems).

Networks Updates



Chair: Brian Shoop, *Gray Solutions*
Vice-Chair: Jon Miller, *A M King*

Food Safety Network

During the FPSA March Conference, the Food Safety Network made a memorable impression as Chairman Brian Shoop, donning Mickey Mouse ears, actively recruited new network members:

Borrowing from its fellow Technology Network, the Food Safety Network kicked off its [Food Safety 101's](#) series in 2024. Under ten minutes each, these short-form, non-sales, content-driven videos allow Food Safety Network Members to show off their areas of expertise.

First up in the series was *HYGIENIC DESIGN FOR FOOD ROBOTS* by Mathias Konne from Staubli Robotics, who discussed selecting robots for food production based on hygienic design and wash-down resistance as critical factors for food safety. Look for fully enclosed designs with smooth, non-porous surfaces and no crevices where bacteria could hide. Also, consider a robot's resistance to chemicals, temperatures, and pressure from high-powered washdowns. An IP Rating only indicates water and dust resistance, not other important factors like materials compliance. Most importantly, choose a robot with a proven track record of resilience in food facilities.

Next in the series was *How to Avoid Food & Beverage Contamination Risk (steam is a food ingredient)* by Loran Garnett from Spirax Sarco, where she addressed the critical topic of steam quality in food manufacturing. Loran explored the various manufacturing processes that rely on steam and the potential risks of steam contamination, highlighting the importance of maintaining high steam quality to ensure product safety and consistency, from chemical and physical risks to biological hazards. Loran discussed the different grades of steam, from plant steam to culinary filtered steam and clean steam. With a focus on mitigating contamination risks at every stage, Loran emphasized the need for proactive measures, empowering food and beverage manufacturers to take control and safeguard product integrity and consumer health. Take advantage of this introduction to optimize steam quality and enhance product safety.

The Food Safety Network will continue its 101 series in 2024 and beyond, looking to stay on top of food safety challenges and regulation changes facing our industry at the FDA, USDA, and other regulatory bodies and agencies worldwide.



Networks Updates



Chair: Denise Klaren, *Glen Dimplex Thermal Solutions*
Vice-Chair: Katie Ireland, *CRB*

Packaging Network

On the May 14th Packaging Network conference call, the Network elected a new Vice Chair:

Katie Ireland (CRB)

Packaging Network Vice Chair

Katie Ireland is an industry-leading packaging expert with over three decades of experience across iconic global brands, including Starbucks, Kellogg, Ford Motor Company, Unilever, ConAgra, and Hershey. She joined CRB in mid-2023, bolstering the design and construction firm's holistic packaging, equipment, and line design services. Ireland graduated with a Bachelor of Science in packaging engineering from Michigan State University before earning her MBA from Washington University in St. Louis.



On May 16th, the FPSA Packaging Network hosted its first webinar for the Recyclable Packaging Series focused on [improving circularity in fiber-based packaging recycling](#). Panelists included Georgia-Pacific Recycling's Innovation and Sustainability Lead Blake Gordon, Western Michigan University's General Manager - Paper Pilot Plant Lon Pschigoda, H.B. Fuller's Global Packaging Sustainability Manager Elizabeth Staab, Green Blue Org's Manager Fiber SPC Brad Kurzynowski, who discussed current challenges and potential solutions. Moderated by the Packaging Network's own Katie Ireland (CRB) and Nehemiah White (Anritsu), the webinar highlighted that while paper recycling is one of the oldest processes, the US only recovers 60-70% of fiber-based materials compared to 80-85% in top countries. Innovations are making recycling more complex as they introduce new materials into packaging. Panelists emphasized that communication gaps contribute to confusion over proper recycling. Consistent labeling and education were cited as important to ensure materials go in the right bins. Contamination from non-fiber components like adhesives and laminations also impacts the recycling process. Economics plays a key role, as lower-quality recyclables mean higher processing costs. Capturing paper waste presents challenges, particularly from e-commerce. Technologies aim to make recycling more accessible and remove contamination from landfill-bound materials. Though US infrastructure lags, composting was discussed as an option for soiled fiber products. Event venues were highlighted as opportunities to divert large waste streams. Adhesive innovations seek to improve recyclability while replacing plastics.

The May Packaging Network [webinar provided insight](#) into current issues and innovations working to advance fiber-based packaging recycling. Collaboration across industries will be important to address the complex challenges. Next up in the series, the Network hopes to tackle glass, plastic, and metal recycling challenges.

Networks Updates



Chair: Tom Wiersma, *Integrated Packaging Machinery*
Vice-Chair: Adam Lavallee, *Emerson*

Technology Network

During the March 27th Networks Breakfast Meeting, NLT Chairman Brian Krumsee took a moment to recognize the outgoing Technology Network Chairman – Tim Barthel from Cybertrol Engineering. As the founding chairman of the FPSA Technology Network since 2019, Tim Barthel has demonstrated exemplary leadership in advancing the technology of the food and beverage industry. He has facilitated knowledge-sharing and collaboration among industry professionals through initiatives like Technotes, Tech Talks, webinars, and more. With over 16 years of experience and as the Executive VP at Cybertrol Engineering, Tim brings a customer-focused approach and a strong background in industrial automation, ensuring the delivery of innovative and reliable solutions that optimize performance and efficiency. His passion for creating value and empowering teams underscores his commitment to driving technological advancements within the industry.



During the April 9th call of the Network, two new leaders were elected:

Tom Wiersma (Integrated Packaging Machinery)
Technology Network Chair

Tom Wiersma is a seasoned B2B marketing and business development executive with over three decades of experience, including evidence-based business-to-business marketing strategy, Account Marketing / strategic sales pursuit, and positioning and marketing communications tactics. Wiersma runs the Marketing and Business Development functions at Integrated Packaging Machinery. At IPM, he collaborates with internal thought leaders, customers, and OEM and AEC allies to integrate strategic uptime and engineered runnability into high-speed, high-volume Food, Beverage, Life Sciences, and Pet Food packaging operations. He has a proven track record of driving growth and fostering partnerships in vertical markets ranging from food, beverage, and paper processing to industrial architecture and engineering.



Adam Lavallee (Emerson US)
Technology Network Vice Chair

Adam Lavallee is a seasoned Business Development Manager specializing in the Food and Beverage industry, focusing on the Eastern United States. Holding an M.B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis - Olin Business School with a focus on Operations and Finance, he brings a unique blend of technical expertise and business acumen to his role. Adam started his Electrical Engineering career after studying at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, graduating in 2007. Over the years, he has honed his skills and knowledge through various roles in the industry. As the Business Development Manager at Emerson Automation Solutions, Adam leverages his extensive background to drive growth and innovation for clients. His passion for both engineering and business makes him a dynamic leader, adept at navigating the complex landscape of industrial automation. Outside of his professional endeavors, Adam is known for his dedication to continuous learning and development. His commitment to excellence and a results-driven approach



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Technology Network

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makes him an asset to any organization. Connect with Adam at adam.lavallee@emerson.com or visit [Food and Beverage | Emerson US](#) to learn more about what he can help you with through Emerson.

The Network will continue its Tech Talk Series for 2024. These five-minute "Tech Talks" are short convos that will tackle technical areas of need and success stories for the food and beverage industry. The Network is seeking feedback with this survey on the series. The Network has already released six videos and is planning on tackling the following topics in soon-to-be-released videos:

- Going up the Digital Transformation Mountain in Scale
- Virtual Reality - Maintenance Support Opportunities
- OEM-Neutral Approach to Uniform Full-Line Training Designed to Improve Secondary and Tertiary Packaging Systems Uptime
- OEM Data - Providing Enhanced Value to a Plant Operation

Looking ahead in 2024 and beyond, The FPSA Technology Network is dedicated to supporting the FPSA Board's vision of establishing the association as a premier resource for food manufacturers. In alignment with FPSA's initiative to increase producer-side membership, the Technology Network aims to contribute significantly by creating and disseminating more producer-specific content. This includes targeted outreach efforts to address food producers' unique challenges and opportunities. By offering valuable insights and resources tailored to the producer community, the Technology Network seeks to enhance FPSA's appeal and utility, ultimately fostering a stronger, more engaged membership base within the food manufacturing sector.



Chair: Kendra Consiglio, *Weber*
Vice-Chair: Morgan Larson, *Handtmann Inc.*

Women's Alliance Network Update

Since 2019, the Women's Alliance has volunteered at a local food bank before the start of the FPSA Spring Conference, only missing one year during COVID in 2021. This event has become known as PACK-IT. For 2024, on March 26th, WAN was at it again in Indian Wells, California, at the [FIND Food Bank](#). The Women's Alliance would like to thank [Alfa Laval](#) for sponsoring the volunteers' transport and [Weber](#) for sponsoring the volunteers' t-shirts. The twenty-three Women's Alliance volunteers packed over 6,280 lbs of food for FIND Food Banks' Sunsetters senior food distribution program.



A special thanks to the FPSA Conference's Defeat Hunger Golf Tournament and the FPSA Executive Committee which made a \$5,000 donation to the FIND Food Bank. FIND Food Bank is an expert on food insecurity and its root causes in California's desert region. They serve as the state and federal food deployment hub for all food pantries and people in their service area. FIND aims to end hunger today, tomorrow, and for a lifetime. FIND Food Bank's President & CEO Debbie Espinosa accepted the donation during the FPSA Golf Tournament presented by FPSA Board Chairman Brian Perkins (Provisur).

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Women's Alliance Network | *continued*

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On March 27th, during the FPSA Spring Conference, the Women's Alliance Luncheon was held thanks to the event's sponsor, [Ensign Solutions](#). Thirty women and men met to discuss the activities and plans for the Women's Alliance in 2024 and beyond. Some opportunities discussed included:

The Women's Alliance Professional Development Subcommittee would like to hold a webinar in 2024 titled "*Unlocking Wealth: A Women's Guide to Identify Obstacles and Cultivating Financial Success*." The Subcommittee is searching for one or two sponsors for this hot-topic webinar. The WAN Professional Development Subcommittee will continue its quarterly [Book Club Meetings](#) throughout 2024. The group is covering a wide range of titles, including *Atomic Habits* by James Clear, June 7th's *Thanks for the Feedback* by Douglas Stone and Sheila Heen, September 20th's *Dare to Lead* by Brené Brown, and December 6th's *Silos, Politics and Turf Wars: A Leadership Fable About Destroying the Barriers That Turn Colleagues Into Competitors* by Patrick Lencioni. All members of FPSA, women, and men, are invited to sign up to attend these book club meetings to discuss these titles with Book Club Chair Stacy Johnson (Hoosier Feeder Company).

The WAN Membership Subcommittee has continued its social media outreach efforts, including a new Executive Spotlight Series edition on [Nelson-Jameson](#). Additionally for 2024, the subcommittee will evaluate its 2025 Red Circle Honors Program selection process. The WAN Events Subcommittee is already planning meetups at conferences throughout 2024 and considering speakers for the Women's Breakfast at EATS 2025. The WAN Leadership Committee is going through many leadership changes in 2024 and is seeking new volunteers for its ranks.



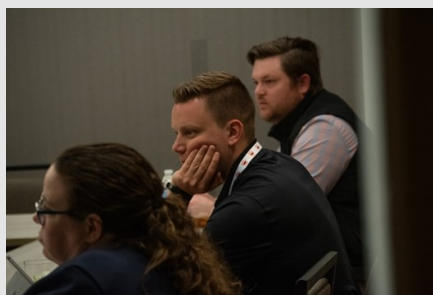
The FPSA Women's Alliance deeply appreciates the FPSA Board of Directors' rebranding efforts, recognizing the importance of a cohesive and modern identity for the association. However, considering these changes, the Women's Alliance has retained its esteemed Red Circle Honors program, a tradition that celebrates outstanding achievements within the industry. The Women's Alliance has developed an updated logo for the Red Circle Honors to align with the new brand direction while honoring past award recipients. This new design reflects the rebranding goals, ensuring visual consistency across FPSA's initiatives while maintaining the legacy and prestige that the Red Circle Honors program represents.

Networks Updates



[Pending Election of New Leadership]

Young Professionals Group (YPG)



During the FPSA Spring Conference, Professional Development Co-Chair Jack Grote (Grote Company) filled in for the outgoing YPG Chairs Len Roche and Nicole Chestnut. One of the topics discussed during the YPG Meeting is that the group has removed the age requirement of under forty this past year while they continue to focus on creating the next wave of leaders and mentors in the food and beverage industry through Mentorship, Professional Development, Networking, and Outreach. The YPG hopes to strengthen its work in these areas by revitalizing the Mentor Circle Program and exploring other networking opportunities throughout 2024. Next, the Network will hold elections for its Chair and Vice Chair during its June Conference Call.



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Networks Questions?

You can email Elena Sierra at esierra@fpsa.org or if you would like to connect to one of the Chairs/Vice Chairs of the Network, she'll put you in touch with them. You can view all upcoming meetings online at fpsa.org/calendar

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