

Where liners meet tapes: Why Amsterdam's 2026 summit matters

“When the liner market moves, tapes feel it.” The AWA Global Release Liner Summit 2026 will examine this interface — with an exclusive offer for Afera Members.



Release liners (RLs) sit quietly at the intersection of several industrial value chains: labels, tapes, composites and specialty coatings. In pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes in particular, they play a critical enabling role, protecting adhesive surfaces before use and allowing efficient converting and application. Despite this central function, liner developments often receive less attention than adhesive or backing innovations.

Yet when the liner market shifts, the effects can quickly cascade through the tape industry. Changes in substrates, silicone coating technologies, recycling solutions or supply dynamics influence manufacturing efficiency, product design and sustainability strategies. For professionals working in the European adhesive tapes business, understanding these developments is therefore increasingly important.

These themes will be at the centre of the AWA Global Release Liner Summit 2026, taking place 11–13 March 2026 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Organised by AWA Alexander Watson Associates, the event will bring together stakeholders from across the global RL ecosystem, including raw-material suppliers, coating specialists, converters, brand owners and end-use sectors.

Topics shaping the liner–tape interface

The summit's programme reflects several developments currently influencing both the RL and adhesive tapes industries. Discussions are expected to cover topics such as

- innovation in liner substrates and silicone technologies
- sustainability initiatives and circularity for liner materials
- liner recycling and waste-management solutions
- global market dynamics affecting supply and demand.

For tape manufacturers and suppliers, these issues intersect directly with ongoing work around sustainability, regulatory compliance and materials innovation.

Afera voices at the summit

Reflecting the close relationship between the RL sector and the adhesive tapes industry, Afera is supporting the event as a Supporter.

The programme also features several speakers from the Afera community. Pablo Englebienne, Afera's Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs Manager, will share perspectives on sustainability and regulatory developments affecting the adhesive tapes industry.

Other speakers include Ian Grace, Technical Service Manager at artimelt AG and an Afera Technical Committee Member, Barbara Brunner, Global Marketing Manager Release Liners at Mondi and an Afera Marketing Committee Member, and Mikko Rissanen, Director of Technology at UPM Specialty Papers and an Afera Technical Committee Member. Their participation reflects the strong links between the RL ecosystem and the technical, sustainability and market discussions taking place within Afera.

Exclusive offer for Afera Members

To encourage participation from the Afera community, organisers are offering a 20% registration discount for Afera Members. By entering the code AWAAFERA20 when [registering](#), Members can benefit from the reduced rate for the summit.

Strengthening connections across the value chain

As the adhesive tapes industry continues to address sustainability pressures, regulatory change and evolving supply chains, closer dialogue with adjacent sectors such as RLs is becoming increasingly important.

Events such as the AWA Global Release Liner Summit 2026 provide an opportunity for professionals working with tapes, labels and coated materials to exchange insights, track emerging technologies and strengthen collaboration across the wider value chain.

Further information and registration

For more details and to register, visit <https://events.awa-bv.com/GRLS26#/>.