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16° SIMPOSIO
IBEROAMERICANO
PANAMÁ
2026

VLB
BERLIN

Versuchs- und Lehranstalt für Brauerei in Berlin (VLB) e.V.

23 TO 25 NOVEMBER 2026, PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

16th Ibero-American VLB Symposium Brewing & Beverage Technology

Program

- Latin America & Caribbean Outlook
- Process & Technology
- Raw Materials
- Innovations & Technology
- Production Optimization
- Yeast and Fermentation
- New Technologies

PLATINUM SPONSOR

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www.vlb-berlin.org/en/panama2026

VENUE: THE WESTIN HOTEL – PLAYA BONITA, PANAMA

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH & SPANISH





MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2026

12:00 to 16:00	Registration and Set-Up for the Exhibition
16:00	Bus transfer from The Westin Playa Bonita Hotel to La Fábrica
16:30	**Welcome Eveneing at La Fábrica, Amador, Panama City**
21:00	Bus Transfer to The Westin Playa Bonita Hotel

TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2026

SESSION 1: LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN OUTLOOK

Chair: Martin Dubrowsky (VLB Berlin)

8:30	**Opening words** *Martin Dubrowsky (VLB Berlin)*
8:35	**The contribution of VLB to a resilient beverage industry** *Dr. Björn Ch. Klotzbücher (VLB Berlin)*
8:55	**Decoding demand: emerging trends in FMCG, beverages and sustainability and their impact on shopper behavior** *María Elena Godínez (Worldpanel by Numerator)*

SESSION 2: PROCESS & TECHNOLOGY I

Chair: Dr. Björn Ch. Klotzbücher

9:50	**Beyond the Brewhouse: Challenges and opportunities in transforming Brewer's Spent Grains (BSG) from waste to value** *Diego Sánchez (Bühler)*
10:20	**From existing assets to future advantages: Unlocking more value with KHS: upgrades, sustainable systems and solutions and new packaging technologies** *Mateo Rocha (KHS)*
10:50	**AI starts with connected data – AP Connect: the digital bridge between analytical instruments and intelligence** *Reinou Olwagen (Anton Paar)*
11:20	Coffee break & exhibition

SESSION 3: PROCESS & TECHNOLOGY II

Chair: Miguel Diazgranados (AB InBev)

12:05	**Market changing conditions: how to adapt your brewery to the new market landscape** *Andy Marz (Ziemann Holvrieka)*
12:35	**Treating water efficiently** *Luzian Gromm (EUWA)*
13:05	**Mash Filtration: Maximizing Brewhouse Performance** *Michael Schweitzer (Steinecker)*
13:35	**Typical water saving potentials in the brewery – Experiences from VLB research and consultancy** *Philipp Zeuschner (VLB Berlin)*
14:05	Lunch break & exhibition

SESSION 4: RAW MATERIALS

Chair: Philipp Zeuschner (VLB Berlin)

15:05	**Non-alcoholic beer and RTDs from breweries – added value and quality** *Andre Trombe (Pall Corporation)*
15:35	**Hop variety substitution: adaptation in times of climate change and phytosanitary problems** *David Alegre (HVG)*
16:05	**Bred for Change: Resilient hop cultivars under environmental stress** *Andrés Lefevre (Hopsteiner)*
16:35	**Influence of hop products and hopping techniques on beer bitterness** *Florian Schrickel (VLB Berlin)*
17:05	Beer break & Exhibition
17:50	Bus transfer from The Westin Playa Bonita to Lazotea
18:20	**Get-Together**
21:20	Bus Transfer to The Westin Playa Bonita Hotel

WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2026

SESSION 5: INNOVATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

Chair: Florian Schrickel (VLB Berlin)

8:30	**Opening Words** *Martin Dubrowsky (VLB Berlin)*
8:35	**From Reactive Maintenance to Lifecycle PerformanceCare™ management** *Alexander Lenz (Ziemann Holvrieka)*
9:05	**Spent grain upcycling and more – Waste reduction and valorization possibilities in the brewery** *Philipp Zeuschner (VLB Berlin)*
9:35	**Trends in the beverage can industry and its impact on quality assurance** *Florian Heukäufer (VLB Berlin)*
10:05	Coffee break & exhibition





SESSION 6: PROCESS AND PRODUCTION OPTIMIZATION

Chair	Andy Marz (Ziemann Holvrieka)
10:50	**Albert Frey: expertise in process technology – Hycuna hygienic pumps and efficient keg filling** *Johannes Gotzler (Albert Frey/Indel)*
11:20	**Very high gravity brewing** *Julio Gamarra (AB InBev)*
11:50	**Determination of iron-pick-up in beer kegs** *Florian Heukäufer (VLB Berlin)*
12:20	Lunch break & Exhibition

SESSION 7: YEAST AND FERMENTATION

Chair	Andre Trombe (Pall Corporation)
13:20	**New superior quality standards for active dry beer yeast** *Marcelo Cerdán (Fermentis)*
13:50	**Some do not like it hot: Non-thermal inactivation technologies for NAB – A proof of concept** *Florian Schrickel (VLB Berlin)*
14:20	**PasteurWiser: Beyond pasteurization – eliminating biofilms, reducing water consumption, and protecting brand value** *William Vilela (Diversey - A Solenis Company)*
14:50	Coffee break & Exhibition

SESSION 8: NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Chair	Martin Dubrowsky (VLB Berlin)
15:35	**Next-generation brewing flexibility: biosolutions for process freedom, productivity, efficiency and sustainability** *Björn Gilbert Nielsen (Novonesis)*
16:05	**De-alcoholization systems** *Alfonso Arías (Alfa Laval)*
16:40	Group Picture (location tba)
17:00	End of conference & casual farewell beer

Registration:

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