

K»MOBIL

THE KIRCHHOFF GROUP MAGAZINE



The world is under pressure. Globalization, the driving force behind prosperity, is under threat. Read Arndt G. Kirchhoff's editorial to find out what globalization, climate protection, and economic responsibility mean today – and why it is so important to take a stand right now.

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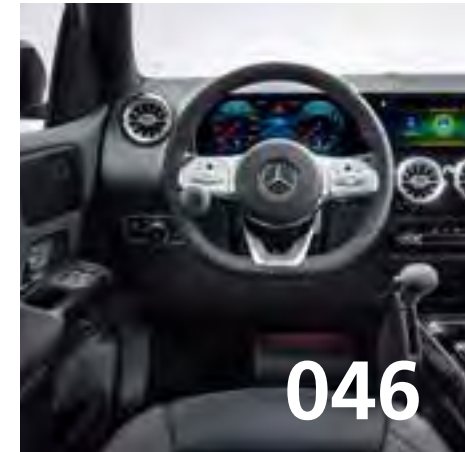
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Staying on the Right Track

Dear Customers and Friends of our Corporate Group, Dear Employees,

Just a few months ago, my assessment of the global economic environment for our companies in the KIRCHHOFF Group would have been clear and positive: The world has recovered from the effects of the pandemic, supply chains have returned to normal for the most part, and the price increases we saw in inflation rates are on the decline. Our companies are striving to improve their competitiveness and refocus their efforts on achieving climate targets.

Now, however, we are seeing US President Donald Trump continuing his arbitrary trade policy in his second term, jeopardizing the global trade that has made the world rich. US tariff policy violates WTO rules and the rule-based multilateral trading system and disrupts global economic and trade cycles. The past decades have shown that globalization is the engine of progress for the development of prosperity in the world. Hundreds of millions of people, especially in Asia, have emerged from poverty as a result of globalization, becoming consumers and thus also contributing to economic growth and development in their countries.

Farewell to globalization?

Global trade relations, which the US had nurtured and cultivated in the post-war period and which, according to the unanimous opinion of economists, produced the greatest surge in prosperity in modern times, have now been cut off without much ado. In doing so, the US is acting against the interests of all other countries in the world. The tariffs not only affect developed economies and stifle their economic growth, but also rob the Global South and developing countries in particular of their rights and hopes for development. The measures announced are a massive burden and challenge for both companies and global supply chains. The consequences are still difficult to assess, but it is already clear that this development will have a negative impact on economic growth worldwide. Consumers in the US itself will be particularly affected, as they will feel the impact of the additional tariffs directly through rising inflation and a smaller selection of products. Tariffs of this kind also reduce the pressure on US companies to innovate, thereby weakening their international competitiveness in the medium term. ►

Even though the US president has recently softened the tariffs somewhat and suspended the introduction of further tariffs, the burden on consumers and industry remains high, so we can expect further noticeable price increases. This is because poor consumer sentiment and increased uncertainty are prompting consumers to save and are slowing consumption growth. At its spring meeting, the IMF predicted slower growth in almost all countries and the worst economic performance this century. According to the WTO, Trump's tariff spiral could cause global trade to decline by 1.5 percent this year.

Europe must act now

Basically, the following necessary actions can be derived for Europe and Asia. First, the speed and determination with which free trade agreements are concluded must be significantly increased, and we must achieve concrete results in bilateral trade agreements with as many regions of the world as possible.

In this context, the EU should be an advocate for free and fair global trade. Now is also the opportunity to position ourselves as a reliable partner. The European Commission and the member states must now show more pragmatism in the negotiations for free trade agreements. Greater cooperation in Europe with the UK, Turkey, Canada, Mexico, India, China, and the countries of the Global South should be sought. Germany can take a leading role here with its new federal government.

In view of the slow global economic growth, particularly in Europe, which is lagging behind, we must do everything we can to return to the path of growth. This requires avoiding measures that weaken the economy and promoting measures that strengthen it. Europe should be guided by the principles of the social market economy, dismantle planned economy, dirigiste, and overly bureaucratic regulations, and place more trust in people and businesses.

Only with adequate economic growth can social standards in Europe be maintained. The completion of the internal market is particularly important in this regard, as it will enable us to make decisions

more quickly, with less bureaucracy and a competitive financial system. It is important to have a government that is capable of acting, that acts as a referee rather than a player, that directs less and places more responsibility and trust in citizens and businesses. We must pursue market-based goals while taking climate targets seriously and seeing sustainability as a recipe for success.

The companies of the KIRCHHOFF Group remain well positioned

Despite global economic uncertainties, our companies are well positioned because we are represented in markets on five continents with our production facilities and only deliver a small amount between regions across borders. The distribution across customers and products is also very balanced, so that overall market developments are generally reflected in our business figures. As a family-owned company with a 240-year history, we know how important it is to stay on course despite all the obstacles. Two examples from our Automotive division illustrate this.

We are continuing to pursue all our sustainability goals and are delighted to have once again been awarded the silver medal by EcoVadis. This year, we even improved our score by seven points, placing us among the top nine percent of all companies assessed worldwide. The EcoVadis assessment evaluates 21 sustainability criteria in four core areas: environment, labor and human rights, ethics, and sustainable sourcing.

Together with our customer Volkswagen, we have received the coveted Swedish Steel Prize for the modified BQP hot forming process and the innovative silicon-boron steel grade "SIBORA." SIBORA technology enables the design of lighter and safer vehicle structures, supporting the automotive industry's efforts to reduce weight and improve safety standards. This award not only underscores our innovative strength and focus on sustainable solutions for the automotive industry. It is also proof of our successful collaboration with our customers and other development partners and demonstrates the enormous potential that lies in strategic partnerships.

Dear customers and friends of our company, dear employees, in this issue of K>MOBIL, you will find further exciting articles about our activities on the following pages, including on the important topic of sustainability, which we at the KIRCHHOFF Group continue to see not only as an obligation to future generations, but also as an opportunity to make our companies even stronger and more economically successful in the face of competition.

We wish you a wonderful summer and all the best!

Glück Auf!

Your



Arndt G. Kirchhoff



Meanwhile, the sixth supplier is connected to our consolidated warehouse in Duisburg (hub), enabling us to consistently increase the number of pallets handled at the integrated European transshipment terminal.

Efficient Transport for Less CO₂

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An optimal transport strategy can make an important contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions. KIRCHHOFF Automotive was able to derive further optimizations for its supply chain from the results of a transport network analysis.

This includes multimodal transport, where we use a combination of rail and road transport for connecting elements from Turkey. Over 85 percent of the distance previously covered on the highway has been replaced by rail transport. This reduces both the CO₂ footprint and transport costs.

In addition, more and more suppliers are being connected to our consolidated warehouse in Duisburg (hub), enabling us to continuously increase pallet handling in the integrated European transshipment terminal. This means that we can now achieve full unloading inbound (supplier to hub) as well as outbound (hub to our plants). By reducing partial loads, we are not only speeding up transport, but also consistently reducing CO₂ emissions.

It is not always possible to replace road transport with rail. In such cases, we are increasingly using BEV trucks instead of combustion engines or making greater use of trailers. The use of alternative fuels can also be an option. In addition, we are continuing to work consistently on optimizing packaging and maximizing transport weight and volume utilization in order to continuously reduce the costs per freight carrier and CO₂ emissions per item or lane [truck/sea container/rail]. ■

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EcoVadis Silver Again

EcoVadis, the world's largest provider of sustainability ratings for companies, assesses how effectively companies integrate sustainability and corporate social responsibility principles into their business and management systems.

SILVER | Top 15%

ecovadis

Sustainability Rating

MAR 2025

Hagen Reck (left), Member of the Executive Board & CFO, and Dr. Jochen Luft, Member of the Executive Board & COO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive, are happy about the EcoVadis Silver Medal, which the company got for its commitment to sustainability.

KIRCHHOFF Automotive has once again been recognized with a silver medal by EcoVadis for its commitment to sustainability – despite more stringent criteria. This distinction is awarded to the top 15 percent of all companies evaluated worldwide. With an improvement of our score by 7 points compared to the previous year, we are now even among the top 9 percent worldwide.

This achievement is particularly noteworthy given that EcoVadis has been applying more stringent criteria since 2024, reflecting rising standards across all assessed areas. Despite the growing challenge of achieving further improvements, we have been able to increase our score by around 8 points in each of the last three years. This puts us well on track to achieve Gold Medal status.

Joanna Broda, Global CSR & Sustainability Senior Specialist, says: "Stakeholders' expectations are increasingly focused on more transparent and robust reporting. Thanks to more defined criteria against which we are assessed in the area of sustainability, we can take well-planned actions to respond to these challenges in a more structured and proactive manner."

Our team's efforts have led to improvements in all categories. In the "sustainable procurement" category, we even improved our score by an impressive 44 points to 74 points over the last two assessments. New environmental, health & safety, and business ethics policies also contributed significantly to our improved rating. ■

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Innovative Technology for Sustainable Production

The expansion of production capacity at KIRCHHOFF Automotive's Mexican plants is progressing: the new plant in San José Iturbide will start production shortly. This plant has a state-of-the-art *e-coating line that uses innovative technologies to recycle 30 percent of the water used.

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we have introduced an innovative rinsing process and a modern evaporator system at the e-coating line in our San José Iturbide plant. Both significantly reduce water consumption while maintaining the highest production standards. In addition, more efficient wastewater treatment protects the environment.

The e-coating line has a coating capacity of 15,000 m² per day and is designed for large parts. The basis of any high-quality e-coating process is effective surface pretreatment. Conventional processes use alkaline chemicals. These require several rinsing steps and consume large amounts of water. In San José Iturbide, we have introduced a cascade rinsing system that significantly reduces water consumption by minimizing the transfer of contaminants between treatment steps.

The e-coating line at the San José Iturbide plant has been equipped with state-of-the-art technology that enables significant water savings. These savings reach up to 30 percent compared to conventional facilities.

In addition to optimized rinsing, the facility is equipped with a state-of-the-art evaporator system that treats even heavily contaminated wastewater from the degreasing process. This system recovers up to 600 liters of deionized clean water per hour for reuse. With this type of treatment, we ensure that the wastewater achieves a level of purity that is suitable for safe discharge into rivers or for use in agriculture in accordance with Mexican environmental standards. Instead of relying on an external biological wastewater treatment system, our internal evaporator solution guarantees compliance with regulations while conserving water resources. The integration of this technology reduces overall water consumption by up to 30 percent compared to a standard e-coating line.

With these optimizations, the new e-coating line in San José Iturbide sets a benchmark for environmentally friendly and sustainable production. ■

Advanced wastewater treatment with evaporator technology: In addition to optimized rinsing, the e-coating line is equipped with a state-of-the-art evaporator system that treats even heavily contaminated wastewater from the degreasing process.



A continuous two-stage rinsing process reduces water consumption to ~4.5 m³/h. This improvement supports our sustainability goals by reducing water consumption while ensuring process efficiency.

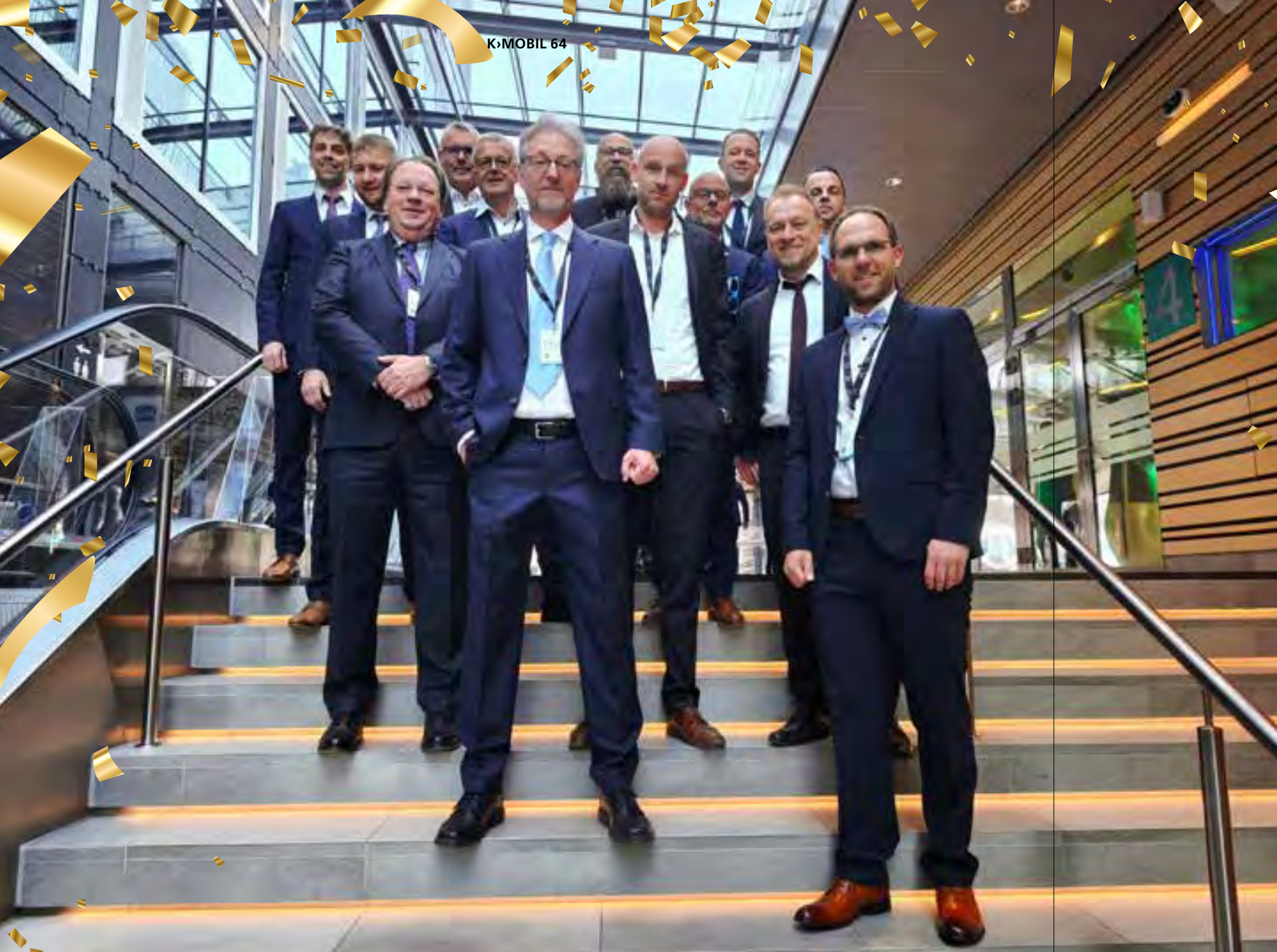
Continued success in the CDP ranking

Our company has once again achieved good ratings in the recognized CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project) ranking, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to environmental protection. We maintained our B rating in the categories of climate change and supplier engagement, confirming the effectiveness of our sustainability strategies in reducing emissions and working with our suppliers. In the water category, we improved from B- to B, reflecting our progress in responsible water management. While our overall CDP rating remains unchanged, we have made significant progress in individual categories and are among the leading companies in our industry.

* Cathodic dip coating (also known as cataphoretic dip coating, or e-coating for short) is a high-quality, economical coating for all dip-capable metal parts. It protects the material from impact, scratches, and corrosion.

Winner of the Swedish Steel Prize 2025

Together with Volkswagen AG, KIRCHHOFF Automotive, as SIBORA development partner for the modified BQP hot forming process and the "SIBORA" steel grade, has won the prestigious Swedish Steel Prize 2025! The award was presented on May 8 in Stockholm by the Swedish steel company SSAB.



Awarded for outstanding engineering achievements, cooperation, and steel innovations that contribute to a better and more sustainable world: the "SIBORA Team," consisting of technology specialists from Volkswagen AG, KIRCHHOFF Automotive, Matplus, Metakus, SSAB and GNS.

Outlook

This award-winning technology opens up new possibilities for designing lighter and safer vehicle structures. The first development parts have already been successfully tested, and we are working intensively on further optimization for series production.

The Swedish Steel Prize 2025 is confirmation of our corporate strategy of actively shaping the mobility of the future through innovation and sustainability.

Award-winning innovation: BQP process and SIBORA

The SIBORA development partners prevailed against three strong international competitors who were also among the finalists. The jury praised our modified warm forming process (BQP process) and the revolutionary silicon-boron steel grade "SIBORA," which we developed in close cooperation with Volkswagen.

The innovation impressed with its outstanding properties:

- **Greater safety:** SIBORA material demonstrates improved crash safety thanks to higher energy absorption
- **Sustainability:** Simultaneous reduction in bodyweight
- **Unique material properties:** High strength in the press-hardened state with improved residual formability thanks to bainite and metastable residual austenite content
- **Production-ready technology:** Tests on development parts under real production conditions have already been successful

For many years, the Swedish Steel Prize has recognized outstanding engineering achievements, cooperation, and steel innovations that contribute to a better and more sustainable world.

"This award is impressive confirmation of our innovative strength and our ability to develop forward-looking solutions for the automotive industry. The successful collaboration with Volkswagen and other development partners shows what is possible when leading companies pool their expertise," comments Technology Development Senior Specialist Markus Löcker, who accepted the award on behalf of KIRCHHOFF Automotive. ■

“You are the entrepreneur of North Rhine-Westphalia par excellence”



AUTHOR: ANDREAS HEINE
GLOBAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNICATION & MARKETING
KIRCHHOFF AUTOMOTIVE



“You are the entrepreneur of North Rhine-Westphalia par excellence,” said Minister President Hendrik Wüst in his speech, paying tribute to the jubilarian and congratulating him warmly on his 70th birthday.

Arndt G. Kirchhoff, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the KIRCHHOFF Group, was honored by North Rhine-Westphalia’s business elite on his 70th birthday as an extraordinary entrepreneur, not only for his life’s work, but also for his tireless commitment as a bridge builder between business, politics, and society. »

At the end of January, around 300 guests from North Rhine-Westphalia's business elite gathered at the Areal Böhler in Düsseldorf to celebrate the 70th birthday of an extraordinary entrepreneur. Arndt G. Kirchhoff, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the KIRCHHOFF Group, was honored not only for his life's work, but also for his tireless commitment to building bridges between business, politics, and society.

"You are the entrepreneur of North Rhine-Westphalia par excellence," said Minister President Hendrik Wüst in his speech, describing him as a 'translator of the economy in these complex and turbulent times.' Wüst particularly highlighted Kirchhoff's ability to always offer dialogue 'with an outstretched hand' and to act as a wise interlocutor across party lines.

In addition to half the North Rhine-Westphalia cabinet, Rainer Dulger, President of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations, leading representatives of trade unions, including North Rhine-Westphalia IG Metall boss Knut Giesler, and numerous media representatives accepted the invitation. Noteworthy was the presence not only of business journalists, but also of editors-in-chief

and editorial directors from the most important regional and national media outlets – a clear sign of Kirchhoff's exceptional position in the German business landscape. The high-caliber guest list underscored the important role Kirchhoff plays as a mediator between different social groups.

As president of the North Rhine-Westphalia Federation of Employers' Associations and the Metal and Electrical Industry Association, Kirchhoff has made a name for himself as a tireless champion of Germany as a business location. Social partnership is particularly close to his heart – a legacy from his father, Jochen F. Kirchhoff, who is considered one of the founders of this important pillar of the German economic system. "Arndt Kirchhoff is a tough but fair negotiator who lives and breathes social partnership," said IG Metall district manager Giesler, praising the constructive cooperation of recent years.

Kirchhoff's commitment goes far beyond economic interests. Until a year ago, he was chairman of the University Council at the University of Siegen, where he advocated close links between science and industry. "Education is the key raw material for Germany's future," the graduate industrial engineer emphasizes at every opportunity.



A symbolic act: At his birthday party at the Areal Böhler, Arndt Kirchhoff had drums distributed and encouraged politicians and business representatives alike to "drum for the economy" together.

His analytical clarity and level-headedness are also valued in turbulent times. "Arndt Kirchhoff embodies what has made the German economy strong for decades: entrepreneurial vision coupled with social responsibility," emphasized BDA President Rainer Dulger in his laudatory speech.

The 70-year-old is particularly interested in interacting with the younger generation. He recently discussed this with students at the Benedictine Gymnasium in Meschede – on equal terms and with the same respect he shows to his interlocutors in the Chancellery. "Young people are our future," he believes, which is why he always makes time for such encounters despite his busy schedule.

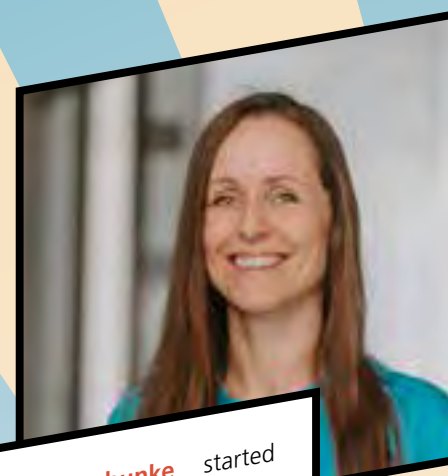
At his birthday party at the Areal Böhler, the ever-optimistic entrepreneur showed his playful side to many surprised guests: he had drums handed out and encouraged politicians and business representatives alike to "drum for the economy" together – a symbolic act that underlines his ability to bring people together and inspire them to work toward common goals.

At 70, Arndt G. Kirchhoff is not tired in the slightest. His energy seems inexhaustible – even during late negotiations or discussions, he remains focused and precise when others are long since exhausted. He will continue to put his extensive experience at the service of society in the future and act as a mediating voice of reason between politics and business. ■

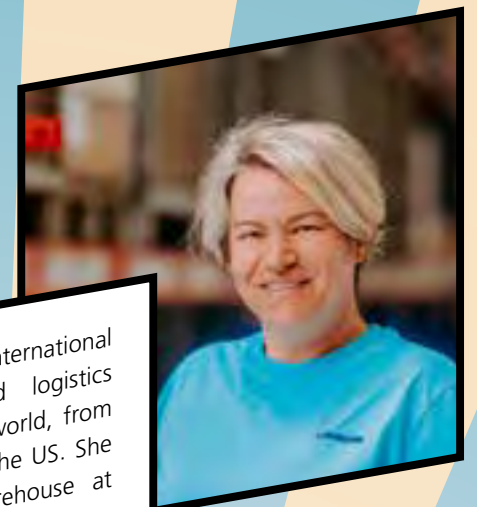
When Diversity Becomes Strength

Whether in production, logistics, or operational administration, female empowerment is not just a goal for the KIRCHHOFF Group – it is a reality. Here, women help shape the future of our plants with competence, clarity, and team spirit.

We are on the right track and we know that there is still more to be done. That is why we create spaces where potential becomes visible, where diversity can grow, and where female leadership is a matter of course. We would like to introduce nine of these women from the KIRCHHOFF Group:



Nadja Zschunke started out as an event technician, then studied mechanical engineering and, after several years in the automotive industry, found her way to FAUN Viatic in Grimma. Today, she manages a team of nine colleagues in work preparation.



Anne Spohr studied international economics and gained logistics experience around the world, from Namibia to Moscow to the US. She now manages the warehouse at FAUN Viatic GmbH.



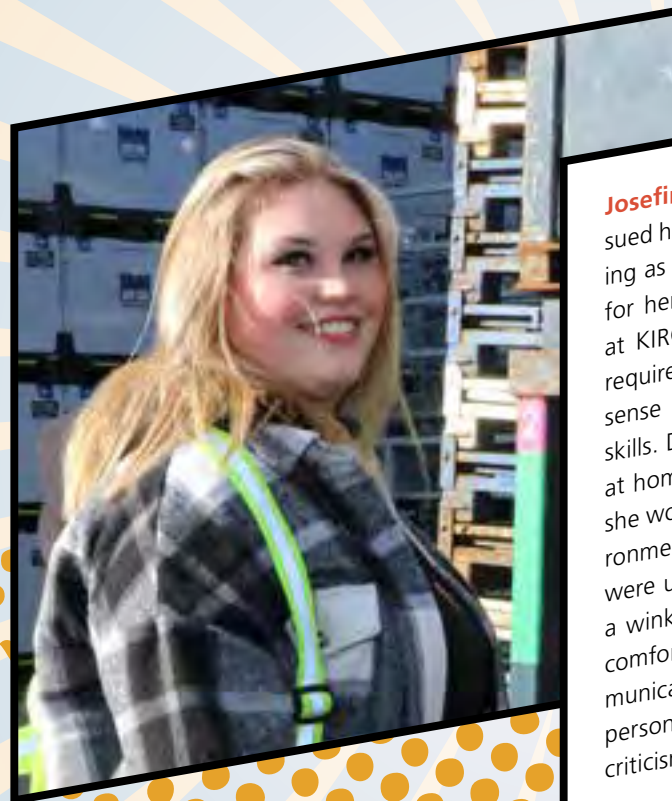
Sonja Schulz is responsible for setting up the FAUN sweeper production line and leads a team of 25 people who really get things moving.

Read more about Sonja, Anne and Nadja in the FAUN article "Who says Leadership has a gender?" on page 052.

Christel Grimaldi is a passionate manager. She joined SEMAT in 2016 and now heads the spare parts division at SEMAT. Her team consists of 20 employees – in an environment that is traditionally dominated by men. Her career path was anything but predictable. She has worked her way up step by step – with practical experience, discipline, an open ear, and a determination to constantly learn and exceed expectations. Her credo: "With competence and determination, respect follows naturally." What drives her is more than personal ambition: she wants every woman to be able to work in a profession and environment that recognizes and values her. As a mother of two, she knows what it means to balance work and family life: "It's simply a question of willpower."



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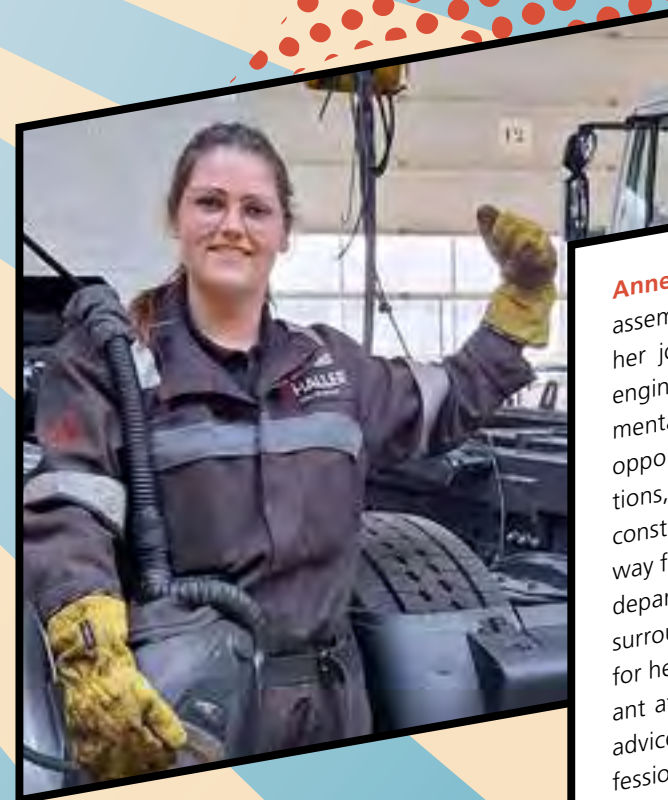


Josefine Wagner joined the company in 2017 and has pursued her career with determination: After completing her training as a warehouse logistics specialist, she laid the foundation for her current position as Container Management Specialist at KIRCHHOFF Automotive in Iserlohn. Her day-to-day work requires not only physical strength, but above all precision, a sense of responsibility, and a high degree of organizational skills. Despite the male-dominated environment, Josefine feels she would be taken seriously as a woman in a warehouse environment. Today, she looks back with a smile—those worries were unfounded. She describes the working atmosphere with a wink as a “men’s shared apartment,” where she feels very comfortable. What helps her: “A healthy mix of open communication and my personality! I am a friendly but also direct person and able to assert myself. I also welcome constructive criticism, because I can only learn from it.”

Maria Marceleno is the best example of how trust, commitment, and personal growth can bring about major change. Born in Mexico, she started working at the KIRCHHOFF Automotive plant in Manchester (USA) in 2004 as an assembly technician – without any knowledge of English, shy, and with only basic computer skills. What would have been an insurmountable hurdle for many became a driving force for her. With the support of her supervisor and the encouraging environment of her colleagues, she developed step by step. Today, she speaks English fluently, as if it were her second mother tongue, has extensive digital skills, and works as a production manager in assembly. In the process, she has not only acquired technical knowledge, but also leadership qualities that enable her to guide her team safely and competently through their daily work.



Technical purchasing is a man’s job? **STUMMER** impressively refutes this preconception. **Michaela Innerhofer** (left in the picture) has been head of purchasing and logistics since she was 24 – a position that was and still is rarely held by women in the industry. Especially in the beginning, she had to contend with palpable skepticism – both within her own company and among the mostly male suppliers. But she countered the doubts with professional strength: through systematic learning and a keen technical understanding, she not only earned respect, but also became an expert on all product details. Her motto, “Knowledge is power,” has proven to be a formula for success. For the past two years, she has been supported in operational purchasing by **Selina Schelmbauer**. Selina, who originally came from the fashion industry, has quickly brought her technical know-how up to a remarkable level – proof that enthusiasm and a willingness to learn open doors even in technical fields. Together, the two women demonstrate day after day that competence is not a question of gender.



Anne Ferwerda works as a bodywork technician in the assembly department at Haller Benelux – and she loves her job. After school, she began studying mechanical engineering, but an internship at Geesinknorba fundamentally changed her career path. There, she took the opportunity to gain a wide range of additional qualifications, including in mechanical engineering and car body construction. These qualifications ultimately paved the way for her to become a car body builder in the assembly department at Haller. In her day-to-day work, she is often surrounded by male colleagues – but that’s no problem for her. Instead, she emphasizes the respectful and pleasant atmosphere that characterizes her daily work. What advice would she give to other women in technical professions? “Stay true to yourself and stand up for yourself. Be prepared for the odd joke and don’t be afraid to ask for help if you need it!”

Lawn & Order: Our eco crew on four legs

AUTHOR:
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We've already installed solar panels on our production hall roof, added motion-sensor floodlights outside, launched our new eco-friendly paint shop, and built birdhouses for the locals. But now there's even greener news from our FAUN site in Osterholz-Scharmbeck and it's walking on four legs!

Since March, three goats and four sheep from a nearby farm have been grazing a 500 m² patch of grass around our firewater pond. The land belongs to the Osterholz public utility, but FAUN has the right to use it including responsibility for upkeep and maintenance. And guess what? Instead of a gardener and lawnmower, we now have woolly co-workers handling the landscaping. It's eco-friendly, sustainable, and ridiculously cute. The fire brigade still has full access to the pond – and thanks to our new animal colleagues, the area stays neat and tidy all year round. For the FAUN team, the little „petting zoo“ right next to the car park has become a daily feel-good highlight. And the lawn? Let's just say... your average golf course would be jealous. A true win-win meadow for the animals, for the environment, and for us. Another step on our Road to Zero. ■



ONE OF US



“Representing my country is a great honour and a privilege!”, says Katarzyna Włodarczyk, CSR & Sustainability Assistant KIRCHHOFF Automotive in Mielec, Poland. She is the captain of the Polish women's national futsal team, which qualified for the first world championship in this sport in the Philippines. 'I thank the company for giving me the opportunity to successfully continue my dual career. Representing my country is a great honour and a privilege. It is also a reward for many years of sacrifice and commitment. I am proud to be the captain of the national team,' she adds. Her colleagues are also very proud of Katarzyna. Pawel Cygan, managing director of our site in Mielec, says: 'You are a great ambassador for sport and an inspiration to us all!'

Ten Days Full of Highlights



Facts and figures about the Auto Shanghai 2025

The world's largest automotive exhibition took place in Shanghai, China, from April 23 to May 2, 2025, covering an area of 360,000 square meters. Around 1,000 exhibitors from 97 countries took part. OEMs presented 1,366 vehicle models, of which over 70 per cent were new energy vehicles (NEVs) and 163 celebrated their world premiere. Over one million visitors, including 630,000 from abroad, learned about the focus topics of supercharging, range-extending technologies, artificial intelligence, human-machine interaction, crash performance, and safe car bodies.

AUTHOR:
SABINE BOEHLE
COMMUNICATION & MARKETING MANAGER



We were delighted to welcome numerous visitors to our stand. They all showed great interest in our innovations in the field of lightweight construction and crash performance.

01 Xuewu Zhang, Purchasing Overseas Director at Chery (2nd from right), with Dr. Thorsten Gaitzsch (right), Member of the Executive Board and CTO at KIRCHHOFF Automotive, during a tour of the stand.
02 The managers at KIRCHHOFF Automotive discussed current and future joint projects with Qiu Peng (left), Product Development Director at Lixiang.
03 Mr. Sheng, CCB Senior Manager, Product Design at BYD (right), in conversation with Rick Cui, Director Sales China at KIRCHHOFF Automotive.



Ten days full of highlights, innovations, and exciting impressions – that was the Auto Shanghai 2025. Safety, artificial intelligence, and connectivity were major themes for many new vehicle models on display at one of the world's most important automotive trade fairs. Safe mobility was also the focus of the innovative body solutions and new products presented by KIRCHHOFF Automotive at Auto Shanghai.



At the start of the trade fair, Arndt G. Kirchhoff, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the KIRCHHOFF Group (center), welcomed VDA President Hildegard Müller and Udo Philipp, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, to the KIRCHHOFF Automotive stand.

Record visitor numbers: Auto Shanghai 2025 attracted over one million visitors.

J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff, Chairman of the Executive Board & CEO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive, said in an interview on the Auto Shanghai: "We are seeing a lot of innovations here, especially from Chinese car manufacturers. We are also seeing differentiation that will have an impact on the various markets in China, Europe, and North America."

Two clear safety trends emerged at Auto Shanghai that are the focus of attention for cars in China. One is passive safety, which is ensured by body parts. These include bumper systems and front underrun protection, which protect pedestrians in the event of a collision – products that KIRCHHOFF Automotive has been developing and manufacturing for years.

Another topic at Auto Shanghai was camera and sensor technology. This is intended to help vehicles recognize when an accident is about to happen and "react" independently.

KIRCHHOFF Automotive also demonstrated its commitment to MAKING.MOBILITY.SAFE with its latest developments. For example, a hot-formed A-pillar made from a new silicon-boron steel grade offers greater crash safety thanks to improved energy absorption with less material. It was important to KIRCHHOFF Automotive to demonstrate how innovative materials and designs can increase crash safety while reducing weight and CO₂ emissions.



We look back on a successful trade fair appearance. Scan this to watch the video:



Under the motto "Globally present for your business," the automotive supplier underscored its presence on three continents. The message to visitors was clear: "We support our customers worldwide and enable them to launch their products smoothly."

"We can produce parts for Chinese car manufacturers – both in China and in Europe," emphasized Dr. Thorsten Gaitzsch, Member of the Executive Board & CTO, at the trade fair, adding: "With production sites in Asia, Europe, and North America, we offer our customers worldwide comprehensive expertise in the areas of cost-effective lightweight construction and crash performance."

This was also well received by customers. At the Auto Shanghai, KIRCHHOFF Automotive was able to strengthen existing contacts with Chinese vehicle manufacturers and establish new ones. ■



01 Crash performance and safe car bodies were among the focus topics at this year's Auto Shanghai. **02** Comfort and plush were just as much a part of Auto Shanghai as flying cars.

» IAA MOBILITY 2025

Outlook: From September 9 to 14, 2025, the world's largest mobility event will take place in Munich – IAA Mobility. Under the motto "It's All About Mobility," IAA Mobility brings together the most important players in the mobility industry and will become the central meeting place for mobility, sustainability and technological innovations. KIRCHHOFF Automotive will also be there. You will find us in Hall B1, Booth C30. We look forward to seeing you there.





Modern Facilities for New Customer Products

Iserlohn, Germany

A multi-million euro investment was made for a new 800-ton servo press. The press has a table size of 4.2 m x 2.2 m and can form coils weighing up to 22 tons and with a width of 1,850 mm. The scrap removal system for the new press was connected to the existing underground system. The forming tools for this press can weigh up to 40 tons.

A new strip and oiling system has also been installed. This allows material thicknesses of up to 5 mm to be processed and oiled in an energy-efficient manner without spray air. The investment project was subject to tight time constraints. Thanks to precise planning of all trades and the clearance of all series items, the schedule for implementation and commissioning was successfully met.

Further investments have been made at the Iserlohn site in a new facility for the production of the HV clip for the BMW iX1 and Mini Countryman electric. The HV clip protects the high-voltage battery

in the vehicle. This product is manufactured using a demanding welding process that is subject to high quality and corrosion requirements. The low-silicate MAG welding process used here employs a special gas mixture to reduce silicates in the weld seams. Additional cooling blocks within the welding fixtures ensure constant and reliable conditions for the production of the long weld seams. The new waxing system also features a station with component-specific nozzles for cavity preservation. The HV clamp is then given a data matrix code for identification and traceability.



KIRCHHOFF Automotive manufactures the high-voltage clip for the BMW iX1 and Mini Countryman electric on a new welding line at its Iserlohn plant.

AUTHORS:

TIMO MÜLLER, MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING MANAGER (PLANT)
THOMAS FELD, PRODUCTION MANAGER SAARWELLINGEN

Left: The new 800-ton servo press can form coils weighing up to 22 tons and measuring 185 cm in width.

Below: KIRCHHOFF Automotive has invested in two systems with modern quality monitoring systems at its plant in Saarwellingen.



Saarwellingen, Germany

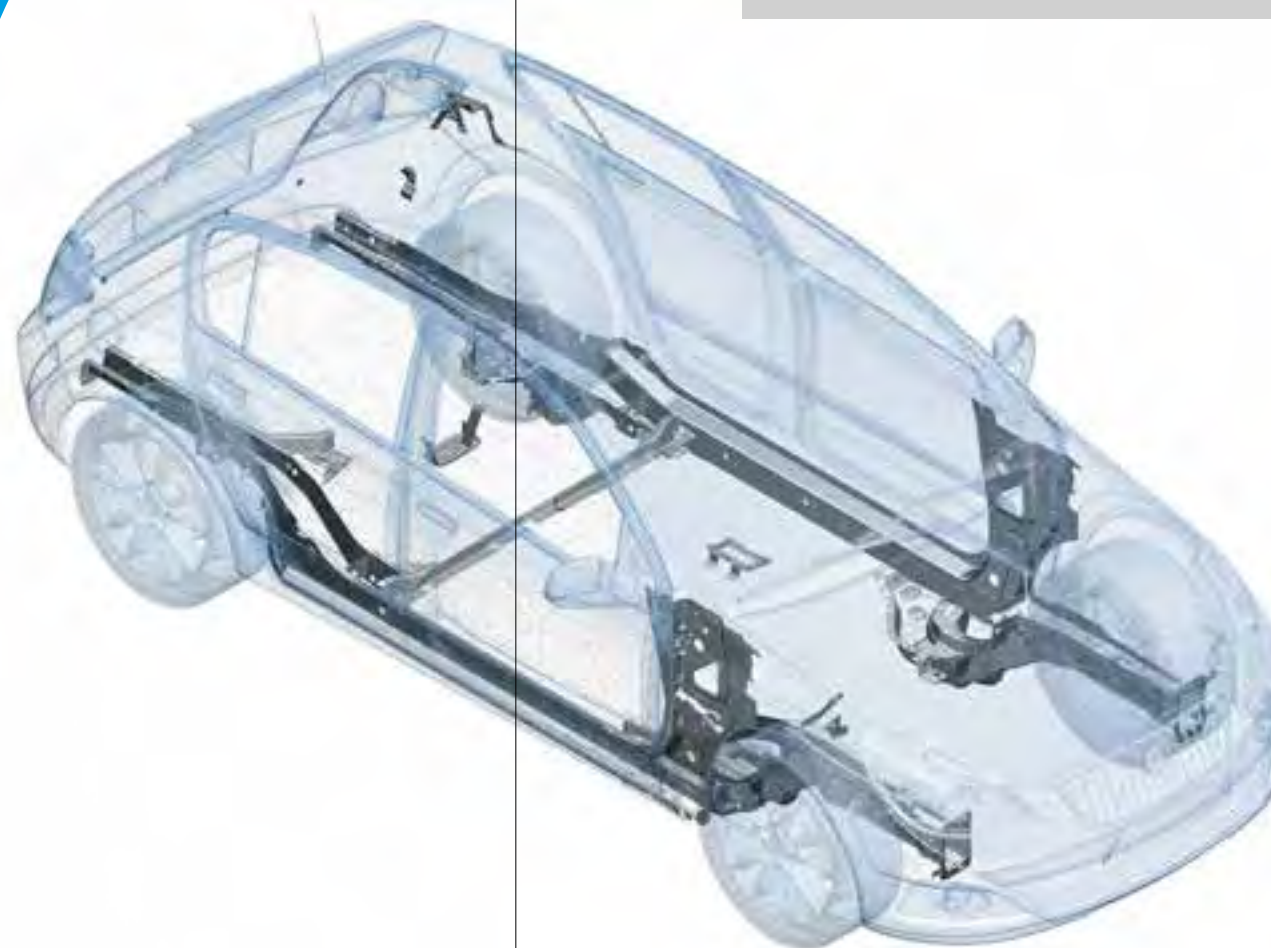
Following a major order, KIRCHHOFF Automotive has invested in two systems with modern quality monitoring systems at its plant in Saarwellingen. In the future, four new products will be manufactured at the Saarland location for Mercedes-Benz. These are intended for the electric and combustion engine variants of the same vehicle model.

Since the quality of the components is essential for the safety of vehicle occupants, KIRCHHOFF Automotive guarantees 100 percent traceability of the processes over 30 years. An integrated inline measuring cell ensures that all spot and projection welding processes comply with the required component geometry tolerances. Compliance with the tolerance ranges of the seal seams is also fully monitored using a camera-based monitoring system. The measurement data is stored in a database and linked to a data matrix code applied to the component. ■

AUTHORS: SABINE BOEHLE
 COMMUNICATION & MARKETING MANAGER
 EVA RADEMACHER
 COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING SPECIALIST

New Products on the Road

With its latest developments, KIRCHHOFF Automotive underscores its commitment to MAKING.MOBILITY.SAFE. With our broad expertise in the areas of cost-effective lightweight construction and crash performance, we support our customers in the development of complex metal structural components for the body and chassis – worldwide.



Ford Puma and Ford Transit Courier BEV: Formed Parts and Welded Assemblies

Technologies

Forming, spot and projection welding, sealer application

Production plants

Craiova, Pitești/Romania, Mielec/Poland, Esztergom/Hungary

Customer/model

BEV variants Ford Puma and Ford Transit Courier

The next round of a successful collaboration

Following the successful launch of 26 complex welded assemblies and formed parts for the **Ford Puma** (2019) and additional formed parts and welded assemblies for the **Ford Transit Courier** (2024), the next stage is now underway: KIRCHHOFF Automotive is producing welded assemblies for the BEV variants of both vehicle models on a comparable scale, including front and rear side members, front panels, and body forming parts. The welded assemblies are produced at the Craiova plant in Romania, while the formed parts come from Mielec, Poland, Esztergom, Hungary, and Pitești, Romania. Some of the assemblies are being carried over, while others are being modified or redesigned as specific BEV variants. The close proximity to our customer is particularly advantageous for the delivery of the complex welded assemblies. The plant in Craiova is located on Ford's production site.



VW Tayron: Front and Rear Aluminum Bumpers, Steel Pedestrian Protection

Technologies

Reheating and quenching of bolts, MIG welding, stretch bending

Production plant

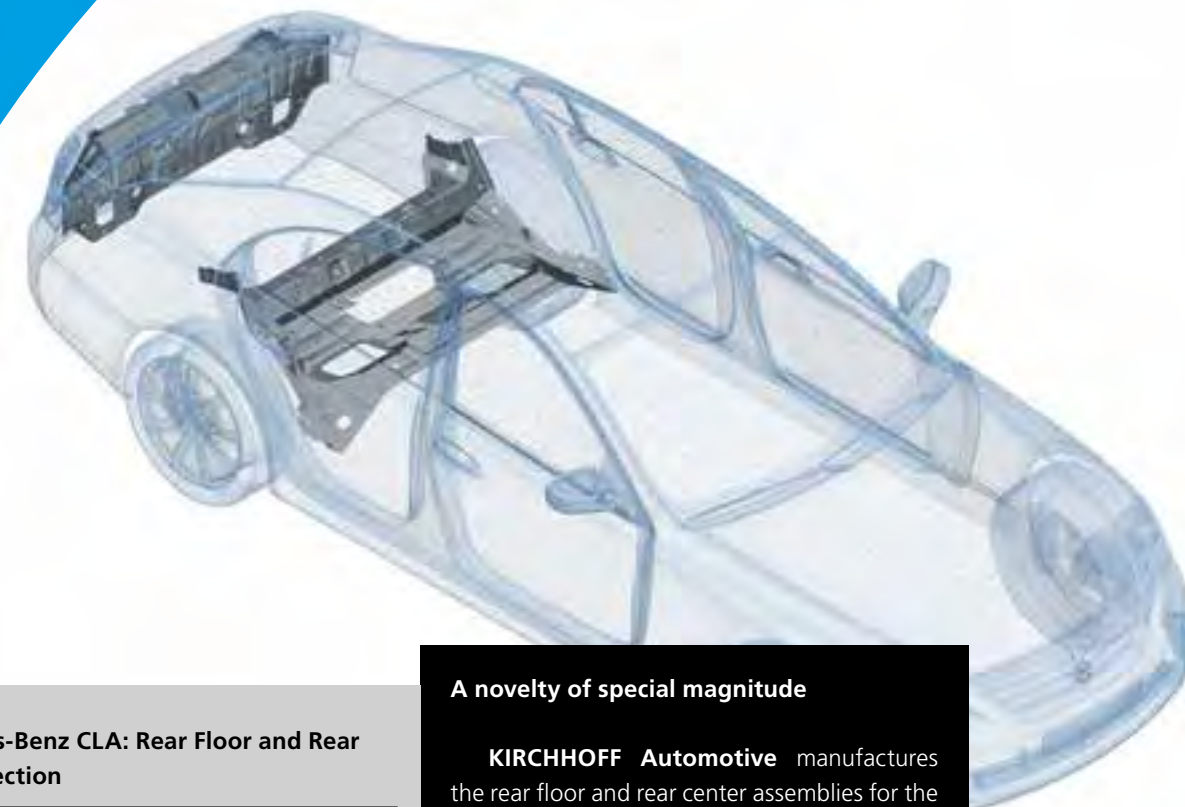
Puebla, Mexico

Customer/model

VW Tayron

Innovative lightweight aluminum construction in the VW Tayron

D The VW Tayron – the new link between the Tiguan and Touareg – is closely related to the VW Tiguan, but quite a bit longer. Based on the MQB-evoplatform, KIRCHHOFF Automotive has developed a crash management system (CMS) made of aluminum for the North American version that is specially adapted to market requirements. Thanks to its high strength and high ductility (formability), aluminum offers high energy absorption capacity, particularly when used for crash boxes, and enables lightweight construction in bodywork. This solution was designed specifically for the North American market, in contrast to the European steel variant, which is designed to meet other requirements, among other things. In addition to the aluminum front and rear crash management systems, KIRCHHOFF Automotive also supplies a steel pedestrian protection system. KIRCHHOFF Automotive was responsible for the design for low-speed crash scenarios and production optimization, while VW focused on the high-speed crash requirements. KIRCHHOFF Automotive's Canadian R&D colleagues provided crucial on-site support to the Mexican profile supplier to further develop and optimize its entire process chain. Despite a wide range of challenges, the products were successfully launched into series production. This is primarily thanks to the close cooperation between VW and KIRCHHOFF Automotive specialists. Global R&D teams from KIRCHHOFF Automotive contributed their in-depth material, process, and development expertise to this project and shared it with the customer.



Mercedes-Benz CLA: Rear Floor and Rear Center Section

Technologies

Rear floor: Forming, resistance spot welding, projection welding, MAG welding, bonding, 100% inline measuring cell

Rear center section: Forming, resistance spot welding, projection welding

Production

Rear floor: Esztergom/Hungary; Attendorn, Saarwellingen/Germany

Rear center section: Attendorn, Saarwellingen/Germany

Customer/model

Mercedes-Benz CLA



A novelty of special magnitude

KIRCHHOFF Automotive manufactures the rear floor and rear center assemblies for the **CLA** for its customer Mercedes-Benz. This new start-up is the first of its kind on such a large scale and also our first order for rear assemblies for **Mercedes-Benz**. ADAC car catalog author Thomas Geiger describes the CLA as “perhaps the most important Mercedes innovation of the decade”, boasting a range of 750 km, fast-charging technology, and minimal fuel consumption. Another new feature is the MMA (Mercedes Modular Architecture) – a new modular system with its own batteries, motors, and electronics. KIRCHHOFF Automotive manufactures the rear floor and rear center assemblies for the CLA. Since the model has rear-wheel drive, the complex design of the rear center assembly and its functional integration into the vehicle posed a particular challenge. In addition, modern locking systems such as the automatic closing of the trunk lid increase the demands on the product. Camera-based monitoring systems ensure compliance with the required manufacturing tolerances. A new feature is a 100% inline measuring cell, which was installed for the first time at the KIRCHHOFF Automotive plant in Saarwellingen for the production of the rear floor. The measurement data collected is stored in a database and linked to a data matrix code that is applied to the component. The production area in KIRCHHOFF Automotive's smallest plant was doubled for this order. The proximity of the site to the Mercedes-Benz plants is proving to be a logistical advantage.



BMW 1 and 2 Series Front End with Front Light Mount

Technologies

Forming of steel, aluminum sheet and profiles; resistance welding; heat treatment; milling; e-coating

Production

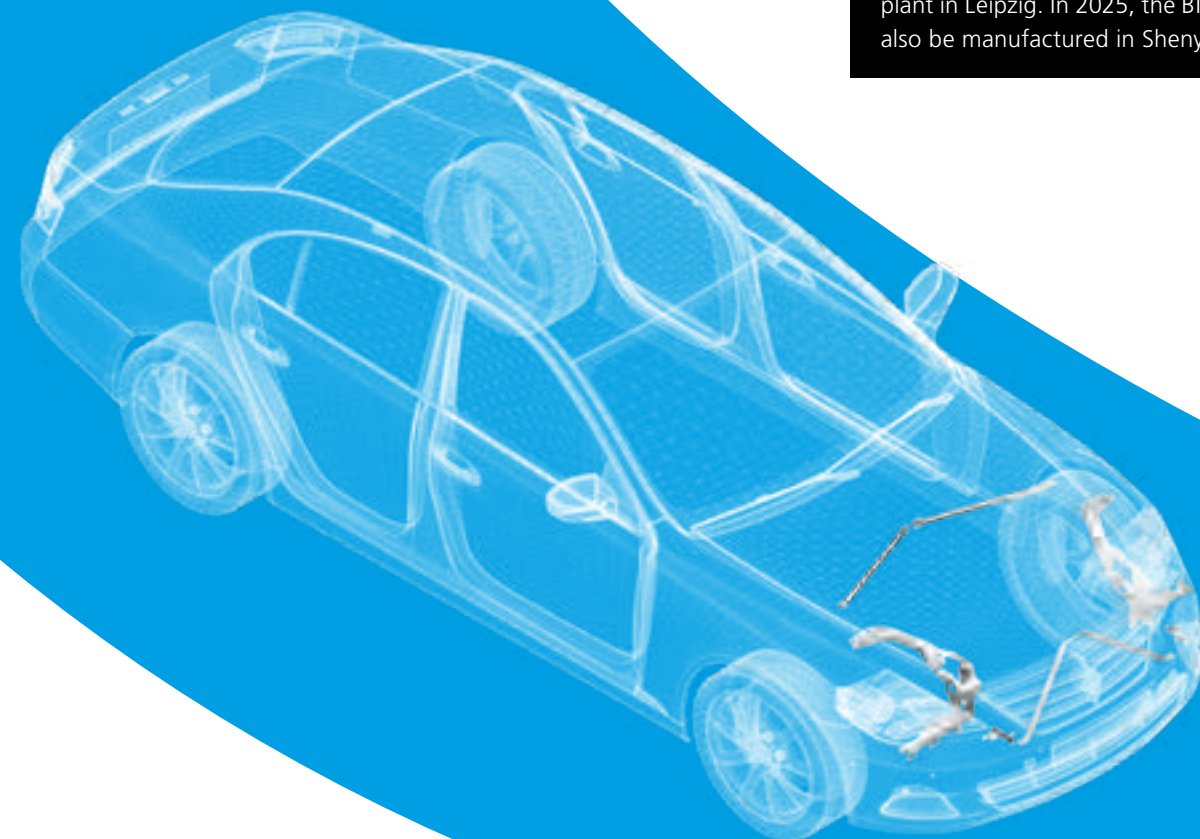
Mielec, Gliwice/Poland, Shenyang/China

Customer/model

BMW 1 and 2 Series

The fourth generation of the BMW 1 Series comes in a "dynamic outfit"

Thanks to a new design with a flatter radiator grille and narrower headlights with new daytime running lights, the front of the new BMW 1 Series immediately catches the eye. Following successful development, KIRCHHOFF Automotive manufactures the headlight housing and front panel mounting parts in a hybrid design to emphasize the reduced design with lightweight components. We implement this with components made of sheet steel, sheet aluminum, and aluminum profiles. Our goal: the right material in the right place. That is why we have used steel components in areas with high rigidity requirements. In other areas, we reduce weight by using aluminum parts. The components are used in both the BMW 1 Series and the BMW 2 Series, the second generation of which was launched in November 2024. The vehicles will initially roll off the production line at the BMW plant in Leipzig. In 2025, the BMW 2 Series will also be manufactured in Shenyang (China).



ONE OF US



Tireless dedication and perseverance are rewarded. The exemplary commitment of **Til Lukas Schäfer, process optimizer for hot forming** at the Iserlohn plant in Germany, not only led to significant technical improvements, but also motivated the entire team. He oversaw the introduction of a new technology at an existing hot forming plant. During the production test runs, many technical challenges and teething problems arose. "I never let setbacks discourage me," says Til Lukas Schäfer. He was presented with the KIRCHHOFF Automotive Excellence Award for this special achievement.

Exciting Developments: Expansion in *México*



Breaking ground for another plant in Mexico.

KIRCHHOFF Automotive is making significant progress in expanding its production capacity in Mexico with the commissioning of two new plants – the Puebla II plant and the new plant in San José Iturbide with a state-of-the-art e-coating facility.

AUTHOR:
ADAM ZARZYCKI
SENIOR DIRECTOR MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

Puebla – additional production space of 9,000 m²

This spring, a new KIRCHHOFF Automotive production facility was opened in Puebla, Mexico. Located in the immediate vicinity of our main plant in Puebla, it plays a crucial role in supplying important automotive components to our customer Stellantis.

The expansion of the Puebla plant is a decisive step toward doubling our operational presence in Mexico. With additional production space and investments in new equipment, we are responding to the sharp increase in demand from our customers. The leased hall covers 8,900 m² with a newly constructed 350 m² office mezzanine, a state-of-the-art quality laboratory, a tool storage area, and a maintenance area. To support production, a central extraction/filter system with a capacity of 48,000 m³/h, two air compressors, a dryer, and a wastewater treatment plant have been installed.

The plant is also equipped with high-precision quality laboratory equipment such as a new 3D measuring system, a handheld scanner, and ultrasonic devices. The Puebla II plant manufactures various components for the Jeep Wagoneer S and the Recon from Stellantis, including trunk liners, wheel arches, aluminum brake splash guards, cross members, and other BIW components.

KIRCHHOFF Automotive is responding to the sharp rise in customer demand at its Mexican site in Puebla with additional production space and investment in new equipment.



The newly built plant in San José Iturbide covers 15,200 m² of production space.



San José Iturbide – New plant with resource-saving e-coating system

The newly built plant in San José Iturbide comprises 15,200 m² of production space, which is complemented by a 1,300 m² office and social building. What makes the new plant special is its state-of-the-art e-coating system. The system has a coating capacity of 15,000 m² per day and is not only designed for high-quality coatings, but also features a sustainable wastewater treatment system with a water recirculation rate of 30 percent (more on this on page 12).

Other infrastructure includes truck ramps, a compressor room, an electrical room, and a modern e-coating laboratory. The site also has a chemical storage area, a fire protection system, and water storage facilities. To increase operational efficiency, the loading and unloading zones have been prepared for the future integration of an autonomous AGV system. This will streamline the logistics of heavy goods.

Conclusion: The two new plants in Mexico are strategically positioned to support customers' production requirements with high-precision components and environmentally friendly technologies. With these expansions, KIRCHHOFF Automotive is further expanding its presence in the Mexican automotive sector while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability and operational efficiency. ■



AUTHOR:
NATASHA PHILPOTT
COMMUNICATION & MARKETING SPECIALIST

Honored by GM as "Supplier of the Year 2024"



Every year, General Motors (GM) honors its most outstanding suppliers at the prestigious "Supplier of the Year" event. This year, 92 suppliers from 12 countries were honored, including KIRCHHOFF Automotive, which proudly received the "Supplier of the Year 2024 in the Creativity Team of Structures" award.

Larry Hagood, President & CEO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive North America, Ken Hagle, Director of Sales, and Josh Forquer, Executive Vice President of Sales and Technical Development, accepted the award in Phoenix, Arizona, at the beginning of April. "It is a great achievement for us to receive this award several years in a row. It reflects our long-term commitment to meeting GM's quality, delivery, and cost targets," said Larry Hagood. "Since only a small percentage of GM's global supplier base receives this award, we are very proud to be part of this exclusive group and look forward to continuing to work with GM to achieve these goals."

Delighted with the award (from left to right): Ken Hagle, Director of Sales, Larry Hagood, President & CEO North America, Josh Forquer, Executive Vice President of Sales & Technical Development at KIRCHHOFF Automotive together with Peter Layer, Executive Director of Chassis, Propulsion & Body Structures Purchasing at General Motors.

As part of the selection process, GM evaluates its suppliers based on their overall performance in 2024, with a particular focus on alignment with GM's core values and strategic objectives. This recognition underscores our ongoing commitment to excellence and our partnership with one of the world's leading automakers.

"For more than 30 years, General Motors has recognized its top global suppliers at its annual event, highlighting their innovation and resilience even under the most challenging conditions," said Jeff Morrison, GM's global chief procurement officer. "Together, we are helping to bring advanced technologies and the industry's broadest vehicle portfolio to market for GM customers." ■



NEWS AND COMPANY INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE

AUTHOR:
JANA SCHULTE
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING SPECIALIST

Transparent corporate communication plays a key role in employee satisfaction.

A new information system opens up a whole range of possibilities: the latest news, exciting company stories, and important updates appear in real time on screens in the KIRCHHOFF Automotive plants – at all locations worldwide and in the local language.



WHETHER IN HUNGARY...



GERMANY



CHINA



NORTH AMERICA



OR POLAND -

EXCITING
COMPANY STORIES AND IMPORTANT
UPDATES APPEAR IN
REAL TIME ON SCREENS WORLDWIDE
AND IN THE RESPECTIVE NATIONAL
LANGUAGE.

Whether in Attendorn, Shenyang, Ovar, or Manchester, the newly introduced global system allows employees to view the most important local and global news from the world of KIRCHHOFF Automotive on a daily basis.

With this project, we are ensuring that all employees receive the same information, regardless of their area of work. Previously, they would find important news on our intranet, in an internal Facebook group, in the employee magazine, or on notice boards. Now, all employees can also stay informed at all times via screens in highly frequented locations in all 27 plants.

However, the professional digital signage system opens up even more possibilities: in addition to automatically displaying all news from the intranet, each plant can also use the software independently to publish content on the screens at its location. Local managers have been appointed for each site to manage the digital signage system at their location.

This new and exciting form of internal communication has been very well received by all employees. 📢

EasySpeed Mobility Aid Steps on the Gas!

The “EasySpeed” hand control has significantly improved mobility for many people with physical limitations. The mobility aid was developed specifically for drivers who are unable to control their vehicle using the standard pedals.



Mercedes-Benz offers EasySpeed as a mobility aid ex works and is also highlighting it in its current inclusion campaign, “Inclusion is unstoppable.” See also: <https://www.youtube.com/@MercedesBenz>

AUTHOR:
SOUSCHA NETTEKOVEN-VERLINDE
MARKETING KIRCHHOFF MOBILITY

Thanks to its extremely slim design, the EasySpeed hand control takes up very little space and offers drivers more legroom. The optimal leverage effect enables particularly energy-efficient operation when accelerating and braking.



The EasySpeed impresses with its ergonomic and particularly slim design. Mounted to the left of the center console, the EasySpeed takes up very little space while ensuring maximum legroom. Its intuitive operation requires minimal effort: moving the lever down accelerates the vehicle, while moving it forward brakes it. Power is transmitted mechanically via a linkage – the pedals remain fully functional and can be used as usual.

New partnerships create synergies

An important step toward strengthening our market position was the development of new sources of supply through KIRCHHOFF Automotive, the largest division of the group. By strategically expanding our supplier network, we benefit from innovative technologies and improved production conditions. The result: consistently high product quality with reduced material costs. This makes the EasySpeed even more attractive for our customers and partners.

Mobility aid ex works at Mercedes-Benz AG

Another milestone is our cooperation with Mercedes-Benz AG: EasySpeed is now available as a mobility aid in the Mercedes-Benz vehicle portfolio. It is part of the “Inclusion is unstoppable” campaign, which focuses on people with disabilities. Mercedes-Benz vehicles can be equipped with a wide range of mobility solutions such as EasySpeed ex works.

Looking to the future: greater product diversity in additional vehicle models

Newly developed sales channels and products that can be easily integrated into different vehicle models allow us to look to the future with optimism. The goal: an expanded range for a diverse and growing target group – for greater freedom of movement and independence in everyday life. ■

Inclusion campaign Mercedes-Benz
„Inclusion is unstoppable”



Smart Data Analysis

AUTHOR: ARTUR RATH, DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

At the beginning of the year, WITTE Tools successfully migrated its ERP system for managing company resources to Microsoft Business Central 14. It quickly became clear that the new and significantly larger amounts of data needed to be better prepared and visualized in order to exploit their full potential. A suitable solution was quickly found: the business intelligence tool Qlik Sense.

This tool is already being used successfully at KIRCHHOFF Automotive and has now been implemented at WITTE Tools with the support of the KIRCHHOFF Automotive digitalization team and under the leadership of Artur Rath, Plant Manager at WITTE Tools Hagen and KIRCHHOFF Automotive Attendorf.

The goal was to make relevant information transparent and intuitively accessible to all employees. This is exactly where Qlik Sense comes in: The new solution offers detailed insights into various areas of the company. Production managers can identify bottlenecks in machine and personnel capacity planning at an early stage and respond

accordingly. Customer- and item-related displays of inventory levels enable well-founded demand planning. Deviations between planned and actual production are also identified – all in real time. This allows causes to be identified quickly and countermeasures to be initiated. These are just some of the advantages that Qlik Sense offers.

As a result, decisions can now be made faster, more informed, and based on facts. Employees at WITTE Tools have immediate access to relevant information – an important step toward greater efficiency, quality, and competitiveness. In addition, WITTE Tools is strengthening its digital future viability. ■

“Qlik Sense has helped us to evaluate our production and quality data much more transparently and quickly. Especially in the daily foreman's meeting or when dealing with capacity issues, we now have the relevant key figures at a glance – without long searches or Excel lists. I find it particularly helpful to be able to identify cross-departmental correlations and respond to deviations at an early stage,” explains Moritz Kaminski, Industrial Production Manager at WITTE Tools.

We.Go.Smart.: KIRCHHOFF Ecotec Relies on a Modern, Flexible Software Solution

AUTHOR:
RAFAEL KUTZ

MEMBER OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD & CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER KIRCHHOFF ECOTEC SE

KIRCHHOFF Ecotec is driving forward its digital development with a software strategy that enables global operations while addressing local requirements.

A cornerstone of the KIRCHHOFF Ecotec Group's digital strategy is its proprietary KI-Ecotec CORE application suite. Based on Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central, this suite is designed for integration with additional software-systems. The goal is to unify diverse IT landscapes, establish common data standards, and interconnect work processes – without compromising the group's decentralized structure.

The applications are highly adaptable and can be tailored to meet specific local needs. At the same time, they create a shared technical foundation that ensures data comparability and enables cross-company analyses. This will significantly simplify the creation of centralized reports, which has traditionally been a labor-intensive task due to the need to manually consolidate data from various sources.

Significant improvements are also being realized in the service sector. Through the KI-EcotecService App, customers will soon be able to submit inquiries online, schedule service appointments, and access service reports or invoices. These documents will, in the future, be automatically generated and made available via the customer portal – integrated with internal processes such as planning and resource allocation. This not only streamlines operations but also enhances transparency and reliability in customer interactions.

Additional tools, such as mobile data capture applications and digital deployment planning systems, directly support day-to-day operations on-site.

The rollout of this solution follows a clearly structured timeline: by 2030, a total of 31 implementations are planned across the group's entities. Existing Microsoft Business Central installations will be systematically enhanced and complemented by the new applications.

This so-called KI-Ecotec Scout also plays a key role in these projects – an intelligent tool that supports the planning process. It helps translate departmental requirements into clear specifications and uses artificial intelligence to match them with existing applications.

Step by step, a modern, networked IT foundation is emerging – one that strengthens innovation, growth, and collaboration across the entire KIRCHHOFF Ecotec Group. ■



Leadership? We've got it. With clarity, courage, and a damn good team, these three women drive operational management at FAUN Viatec: Anne Spohr, Nadja Zschunke and Sonja Schulz (from left)

Who says Leadership has a gender?

Women in operational leadership?

At FAUN Viatec in Grimma, it's just business as usual.

AUTHOR:

CLAUDIA SCHAUE, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER FAUN GROUP

At our sweeper manufacturing site in Grimma, Nadja Zschunke, Anne Spohr and Sonja Schulz make sure things run smoothly every single day. They lead their teams with clear minds, open ears, and loads of pragmatism. What unites them? Simple: achieving goals, staying independent, and improving – together with their teams – one step at a time.

They work because they want to and because they can.

In Eastern Germany, it's nothing new for women to work full-time. What's changing, though, is the visibility and natural confidence with which they step into operational leadership roles today. "We don't know any other way," says Anne Spohr, warehouse manager at FAUN Viatec, with a shrug. Daycare is sorted. Her focus? Reaching her own goals – step by step.

Nadja Zschunke, who leads the production planning team, also values this combination of challenge and freedom: "We've launched a major transformation process here in Grimma. It's exciting because we really get to shape things." Sonja Schulz, team leader in final assembly, puts it like this: "Sometimes you just have to jump into the deep end. Then swim."

Three stories. One goal: independence.

Each of these women started her journey from a completely different point. Nadja began as an event technician, studied mechanical engineering, and spent years in the automotive industry before landing at FAUN Viatec – through a speculative application, no less. She now leads a team of nine in production planning. Anne trained as a foreign language correspondent, studied international business, and gained logistics experience around the world – from Namibia to Moscow to the U.S. After working at DB Schenker, most recently on behalf of Porsche, she now manages a team of twelve at the warehouse. Sonja came from the electronics industry, where she held leadership roles for 14 years before taking over the final assembly team at FAUN. Today, she leads 25 people. What do they all have in common? A desire to be financially independent and a leadership style that grows with the team – not just manages it.

Challenges? Bring them on.

Of course, there's still the occasional game of corporate buzzword bingo. Voices stuck in the "But we've always done it this way" mindset. Their response? Anne: "We're moving forward, not backward." Nadja: "Eyes on the road ahead – not in the rearview mirror." Sonja adds: "Mistakes have to happen. Otherwise, there's no growth. The key is to learn from them." The atmosphere in their teams is refreshingly relaxed. A boss is a boss – regardless of gender. And their own boss, Tobias Badtke, Managing Director of FAUN Viatec GmbH, couldn't be prouder: "Super competent and incredibly loyal. They work in a structured, focused way and are always solution-oriented in cross-functional communication. I'm really happy we're becoming more diverse and these three already have some serious success to show for it!"

Do women lead differently? You bet. And that's a good thing.

More empathy, more mediation, maybe a bit more pre-thinking and perspective-taking – these are qualities the three associate with female leadership. But most of all, they see conflict as an opportunity and value their role as mediators within the team.

Their advice to young women at the beginning of their careers?

Anne: "Stick with it. Stand up for yourself." Nadja: "Try things out. It doesn't have to be perfect – just go for it." Sonja: "Be bold and outspoken. Just start." Their vision for the future? One in which their daughters won't have to explain why they chose a so-called "non-traditional" job. They'll just be who they are. No apologies, no labels.

By the way: diverse teams perform better.

A little data never hurts: According to McKinsey's study "Diversity wins: How inclusion matters", companies with high gender diversity are 25% more likely to be more profitable than average. Who would want to miss out on that opportunity?

At FAUN Viatec, female empowerment doesn't mean fighting your way to the top. It means being given the space to lead – with skill, team spirit and a healthy dose of courage. And that benefits everyone. ■

THE CITY OF CRANES

AUTHOR:
CLAUDIA SCHAUE
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER FAUN GROUP



Our bauma team 2025.

Every three years, the trade fair grounds in Munich transform into an impressive stage of towering cranes, heavy equipment, and everything the construction world could ask for. It's a wrap: FAUN at bauma 2025.

bauma – the world's leading trade fair for construction machinery, building materials, mining equipment, construction vehicles and tools – is the place to be for the global construction industry. With 616,000 m², it's not only the biggest trade show in its field but also the largest in the world by exhibition space. This year, it attracted over 600,000 visitors to Munich. And for the sweeper division of the FAUN Group, it's a must-attend event. ▶



VIAJET 7 - made in Germany

- ✓ Smart. Versatile. Built for cities and construction sites.
- ✓ Flexible deployment: Ideal for municipalities, construction zones and weed control
- ✓ Strong suction: Up to 8 m³ hopper and 3,000 l water tank
- ✓ Filtered recirculation system: Up to 50% less fine dust, saving both water and energy
- ✓ Pure power: Streamline fan for heavy-duty dirt and jobsite performance
- ✓ All-rounder: Optional upgrades for rubber abrasion and line removal
- ✓ Sustainable & quiet: Perfect for urban zones and low-emission areas
- ✓ Operator-friendly: Ergonomic controls, optional cruise control, low-maintenance design

Teams from FAUN Viatic (Germany), Val'Air (France) and Trombia Technologies (Finland) showcased three powerful sweepers designed for demanding environments. The response from industry pros? Fantastic.

Here's our bauma summary by the numbers: 212 new leads, over 230 in-depth conversations with customers from Europe, Asia, Australia, the Middle East and South America and the cherry on top: we brought home real orders from Munich. When will we see you? ■

Servus Munich – we'll be back for the next bauma: April 3–9, 2028.



VIAJET 14 - made in France

- ✓ Big. Robust. Maximum performance.
- ✓ Massive capacity: 14.5 m³ hopper, 8,250 l water tank – built for large areas
- ✓ High-pressure cleaning: 300 bar at 135 l/min for edge-to-edge power
- ✓ Dual suction: Simultaneous nozzles for higher efficiency
- ✓ Multi-functional: Up to 4 brushes, jet nozzles and high-pressure lances included
- ✓ Built tough: Designed for airports, highways, tunnels, and job sites
- ✓ Eco-smart: 3-star PM10 rating – top dust binding
- ✓ Comfortable & service-friendly: Central control system, cameras, lights, modular design

Trombia Free - made in Finland

- ✓ Fully electric. Fully autonomous. Fully next-gen.
- ✓ Autonomous & electric: Efficient sweeping with ultra-low energy and water use
- ✓ Huge coverage: Up to 8,000 m² cleaned per hour
- ✓ Fine dust master: Binds PM2.5 dust almost water-free – sustainable and safe
- ✓ Smart operation: Real-time monitoring, cloud control, autonomous unloading
- ✓ Fully tailored: Pre-mapped routes and location-specific planning
- ✓ Maximum efficiency: Low running costs, minimal personnel needs
- ✓ Ideal for: Ports, airports, smart cities and industrial zones



**Wanna take a test drive?
Book your demo right here:**



AUTHOR:
CLAUDIA SCHAUE
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
FAUN GROUP

Spotless in the fast lane

Truck handover at the Grimma plant:
 From left: Frank Fischer (Service Manager), Mario Ringl (Head of Sales) and Thomas Schmidt (Sales Representative)

Biggest deal in years: FAUN Viatec to supply sweepers for Germany's highways



The Autobahn GmbH des Bundes is backing Saxon engineering, German quality and sustainable mobility. The order of multiple VIAJET 7 sweepers for Germany's federal highway cleaning fleet marks the largest single contract for FAUN Viatec GmbH and its new production facility in Grimma in recent years. From north to south, east to west – these sweepers will soon be at work across Germany's Autobahn network. Their mission: ensuring safety, cleanliness, and infrastructure reliability for millions of road users.



They're proud of the sweepers that will soon help keep Germany's highways clean: the dedicated technicians at FAUN Viatec.

Twice the Power: Diesel and Electric

Part of the new fleet is built on Mercedes-Benz Arocs chassis. These powerful sweepers are equipped with everything needed for the toughest cleaning jobs: the proven HS 2000 hydrostatic drive, dual sweeping units (left and right), front brushes, and a roof-mounted suction system. But the real gamechanger is the second fleet series: Nine fully electric VIAJET 7 units built on zero-emission DESIGNWERK chassis, delivering 450 kWh of power and the same sweeping performance as their diesel counterparts. "This partnership with DESIGNWERK sends a strong signal. It's another fantastic collaboration with the Swiss e-truck experts and a major step toward greener motorway infrastructure. I'm proud that we're making this project happen for the federal Autobahn network," says Mario Ringl, Head of Sales, FAUN Viatec GmbH.

A Europe-wide Tender – Made in Germany

The prestigious order was awarded through a pan-European tender. That the contract went to a German manufacturer is a clear endorsement of the performance and reliability of German engineering. The decision in favour of FAUN and the VIAJET 7 is also a vote of confidence in partnership, quality and full-service support. The sweepers are built for high-performance cleaning, reliable 24/7 operation, zero emissions, and easy maintenance. And when it comes to service – we're always on the move.

All-in Service – Always Ready

The first two units were delivered in December 2024, with additional batches scheduled throughout 2025. An extra backup machine will roll off the Grimma production line in October, always on standby to keep the fleet running while others undergo servicing. Fast spare part delivery and short repair cycles round off the all-inclusive package. ■

Bienvenue chez nous en Alsace

In March, Val'Air celebrated its 30th anniversary and did so in style! Employees, families, customers and long-time partners gathered in the beautiful Alsace region to raise a glass and congratulate Managing Director Pascal Buzon and his dedicated team.



Victor Cottet (left), part of the design team, explains their new laser cutting system.

AUTHOR:
CLAUDIA SCHAUÉ

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER FAUN GROUP



And the team behind it all? Full of heart, full of dedication.



Pascal Buzon (third from right) leads the visitors through the production hall.

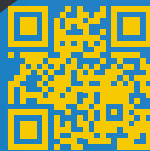
Since 2022, Val'Air has been part of the Cleaning Division of the FAUN Group. At the company's site in La Côté, sweepers for special applications are built – as custom one-offs that are now at work all across Europe. The factory also carries out metal processing contract work in-house.

A strong message, a stronger team

In his speech, Managing Director Pascal Buzon had heartfelt words for his team, their families, customers, partners and former owner Jacques Daval: "The conversations over the past two days reminded me once again what truly defines us: our passion, our expertise, and the drive in every single person here to give their best. You, dear Val'Air team, remind me daily how important real partnership, transparency, and trust are. Our mission is crystal clear: to develop tailor-made sweepers based on proven, standardized solutions; always with a focus on efficiency and user-friendly operation. We're proud to be part of the FAUN Group and the wider KIRCHHOFF family And we're excited to grow our role in the sweeper segment even further. My thanks also go to Jacques Daval for his foresight and the smooth transition into the FAUN Group."

There's plenty happening in La Côté. The next steps? New product developments and a bigger, better assembly area to meet growing demand. ■

The MF 4Nordic in action:



AUTHOR:
THOMAS THURESSON
CEO FAUN NORDIC

Four of a kind!

With the rear loader MF 4Nordic, FAUN is taking a tailored approach to Scandinavia's unique waste collection structure.



Sweden was one of the first countries in Europe to fully implement the EU's household waste separation directives. In practice, this means that every residence – from urban apartment blocks to remote woodland cabins – must be able to sort at least seven waste fractions directly at the doorstep. Around 25% of Swedish municipalities have already introduced the system – some more than 15 years ago. Now, all 280 municipalities face a key decision: which collection system will win out across the board?

Why Multi-Fraction Systems? The Answer Lies in the Landscape.

Sweden's topography is as beautiful as it is challenging – with sparsely populated areas, long distances, and decentralized settlements. Waste collection here has to go the extra mile. Literally. That's why local authorities are turning to two-, three-, or even four-fraction collection systems. The four-chamber solution uses two 370-litre bins, each split into two compartments with an extra insert for glass and metal. All four fractions are emptied in a single tipping process using two comb lifters – smart, simple, and efficient. To meet this demand, FAUN Nordic developed the MF 4Nordic – a fresh

breeze for Sweden's waste industry. This four-chamber rear loader is certified according to EN 1501 and has been hitting the roads since last year. And the feedback? Nothing short of enthusiastic: More than 20 municipalities, plus major private operators like PreZero, Ohlssons, and Verdis, have tested the vehicle and are clearly impressed.

The MF 4Nordic is based on a proven rear loader design. Its lifter is an evolution of the Returpack concept, a system already established in Swedish take-back schemes. The result: a robust, safe and field-tested vehicle, technically fine-tuned to fit the specific needs of the Nordic market. The body is produced by HALLER Benelux, part of the KIRCHHOFF Ecotec Group. The lifter is made by ZOELLER. From there, the fully preassembled body is shipped to FAUN Nordic in Kalmar, where it's mounted onto the chassis and equipped with localised components – including 360° camera systems, storage boxes and RFID modules. Then come registration and delivery. Followed, of course, by comprehensive after-sales support across the region.

With the MF 4Nordic, FAUN is proving once again that smart design and regional understanding go hand in hand. Four wins in one truck – and that's what we call a real full house. ■



Hands down, the best job I've ever had.

Every great chapter deserves a worthy handover. As Simon Hyde moves into retirement, he passes the leadership of FAUN ZOELLER UK to Richard Horton. From CFO to CEO, Richard brings continuity and fresh energy to the role. Simon, thank you for your passion, your vision, and your commitment. Enjoy the road ahead!



The leadership team of FAUN ZOELLER UK.

AUTHOR: LUKE FISHER

PPUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS APPRENTICE FAUN ZOELLER (UK) LTD

After 25 incredible years at FAUN Zoeller (UK) Ltd, CEO Simon Hyde has announced his retirement, marking the end of a remarkable era for the company. His leadership, vision, and dedication have been instrumental in shaping FAUN Zoeller UK into the industry leader it is today. Reflecting on his tenure, Simon describes his time at the company as “the best job I've ever had.” Under his leadership, FAUN Zoeller UK has grown significantly, driving innovation, operational excellence, and a strong company culture. His ability to foster teamwork and encourage progress has left a lasting impact on the business and its people.

A Legacy of Leadership and Growth

At the heart of this success has been a commitment to strong values, resilience, and continuous improvement. Simon has always prioritised a collaborative and forward-thinking approach, ensuring the company remains at the forefront of the industry. He has expressed deep gratitude to the KIRCHHOFF Group and family for their trust and support, which have played a crucial role in shaping FAUN Zoeller UK's success. As Simon embarks on this new chapter, he looks forward to spending more time with family and focusing on mentoring and leadership development—areas he is passionate about. He extends his deepest thanks to colleagues, partners, and friends who have made the last 25 years so meaningful. The relationships built over this time have been a cornerstone of FAUN Zoeller UK's success, and Simon is immensely grateful for the collaboration, talent, and dedication he has witnessed throughout his journey. While stepping away from the CEO role, Simon remains a keen supporter, cheering on FAUN Zoeller UK as it continues to thrive and lead under Richard's guidance. With strong leadership in place, the company is poised for continued success and an exciting future ahead.



Thanks, Simon (left). Over to you, Richard

Welcoming Richard Horton as CEO

As Simon steps into retirement, he passes the baton to Richard Horton, who has been appointed as the new CEO. With 12 years of experience at FAUN Zoeller UK, Richard has a deep understanding of the company's culture, values, and ambitions, making him the ideal leader for the next stage of growth.

Richard has expressed his gratitude for Simon's mentorship and leadership, which have helped shape his journey. “It's an honour to lead this exceptional organisation and continue building on the firm foundations of Simon Hyde, whose leadership, vision, and mentorship have inspired me over the last 12 years. As I step into this role, I am committed to staying true to the values that matter most to me — family, health, integrity, safety, and sustainability. These principles will continue to shape how we work together, support one another, and serve our customers and communities.” He is dedicated to working with the leadership team to push boundaries, embrace new opportunities, and continue delivering exceptional service and value to customers and partners. He has also extended his gratitude to the wider FAUN Group for their support and belief in his leadership.

Cheers, Simon and welcome, Richard. ■



From left: Neil Wigley, Gareth Williams and Rhodri Farrer testing the Trackway reels in all weather conditions.

This Year Changed the Game

Engineering and Operations Manager, Gareth Williams celebrates 20 years at FAUN Trackway Limited in Wales this year. Here, he reflects on his journey, and how he began his successful career within engineering.

**AUTHOR:
ELLIE ROBERTS
MARKETING COORDINATOR
FAUN TRACKWAY LIMITED**

The interest within engineering started out with Gareth buying older cars with friends, enjoying the thrill of driving off-road, and inevitably figuring out how to repair them, adding various modifications to challenge his skills. Gareth commented “I enjoyed figuring out how things work and challenging myself to fix it, although I did nearly burn the house down trying to fix a VCR once, my parents were very understanding.” His father, a Civil Engineering Project Manager has always supported his career, allowing him to get involved with work experience and summer jobs within the construction sector, solidifying his interest in engineering. After gaining various experience, Gareth went on to finish school, and was accepted into Huddersfield University to study a 4-year Automotive Technology Honours Degree, which included a placement year within industry.

After two years of studying, his third year arrived, and it was time to embark on a placement year, allowing him to put all this knowledge to the test. Gareth recalls the moment he approached FAUN Trackway Limited, then known as FAUN Municipal Vehicles Limited, as it “looked like an interesting place to work” to which he was offered a position for the year.

Although the 4 year course at Huddersfield University was insightful and educational, Gareth said “That year was an eye opener I learned a lot more than I did in the whole degree!” and the placement allowed him to put all his theory into practice, from beginning with trucks and RCV’s, to developing new innovative technology within FAUN Trackway® throughout his career. After the placement year, he completed his final year at University, and later received a call from FAUN Trackway® offering him a graduate engineer position. “I was lucky to have Paul Godridge as a mentor from the beginning of my journey at the company, he taught me everything I know about hydraulics over the years, which I can now pass onto my team” he commented, looking forward into the future at FAUN Trackway®.

Each role comes with challenges, especially when working with the world’s most demanding customers, and this more often than not means urgent customer requirements are expected. “We’ve been extremely lucky to have the opportunity to sit with customers around the world from various cultures, to develop solutions which meet their needs”. No day or project is the same at FAUN Trackway® and it’s very much an all hands on deck culture, which allows everyone to thrive in their position at the company, not to say that doesn’t come without it’s challenges. Gareth’s advice for those facing challenges; “Don’t be afraid to leave your comfort zone, if you make mistakes – own them! Everyone will learn from it. Put forward all your ideas, no matter how crazy they seem, it will inevitably spark an idea in someone. We have an open culture at FAUN Trackway® so we always support everyone, and if you want to challenge others at every level of the company, feel free to do so. Most importantly, keep a cool head and learn how to switch off at the end of the day.” he commented.

Over the last 20 years, Gareth has had various opportunities to progress his career and has helped develop those around him, “I learnt so much within my first placement year, and I continue to learn. I wouldn’t be too concerned with academic achievements and qualifications; engineering apprenticeships are also a great way to gain practical experience, and to test your theoretical knowledge”. At FAUN Trackway Limited, we’re proud to offer work experience as well as apprenticeship schemes, to help develop the next generation of engineers. “For our team, the priority is to be a team player, willingness to learn, flexibility and a sense of humour, the rest you’ll just pick up along the way”. ■

K>MOBIL and all teams across KIRCHHOFF Ecotec congratulate FAUN Trackway Limited on 20 years of success and dedication.



K-MOBIL 64

KIRCHHOFF ECOTEC

Into a Clean Future

Sparkling clean underground containers? With its majority stake in MOWA Mobile Waschanlagen GmbH, ZÖLLER-KIPPER is expanding its portfolio in the field of container cleaning. In this interview, MOWA CEO Marc Przybylski and Alexander Kaiser, Head of Controlling at ZÖLLER-KIPPER and the new CFO of MOWA, explain the opportunities arising from the merger and the plans for their shared future.



New Business Partners: Marc Przybylski (left) and Alexander Kaiser will be responsible for the future of MOWA Mobile Waschanlagen GmbH.

AUTHOR:
STEFANIE STÜTING
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

Are there any specific plans for the technological development of MOWA systems?

Marc Przybylski: Absolutely! A key focus is on sustainability and efficiency. Some of our cleaning vehicles are already powered by compressed natural gas (CNG). Additionally, we are continuously optimizing the water consumption of our systems to make resource use even more sustainable.

How do customers benefit from this new partnership?

Alexander Kaiser: Our customers gain access not only to an expanded product portfolio but also to improved service offerings. By integrating MOWA's technology into our established sales and service network, we are now even more present and efficient for our customers.

What other plans do you have for the future?

Marc Przybylski: We want to continue growing and developing innovative cleaning solutions. The combination of our expertise with ZÖLLER-KIPPER's structures holds enormous potential. We're excited to set new standards in the industry together!

Alexander Kaiser: Our goal is to offer the best cleaning solutions for our customers while continuing to advance sustainable technologies. With MOWA by our side, we're in an excellent position to do just that.

The collaboration between MOWA and ZÖLLER-KIPPER promises a cleaner future – for waste containers and the environment. Together, the companies are committed to innovation, efficiency, and sustainable technology. ■

Mr. Przybylski, ZÖLLER-KIPPER's majority stake in MOWA marks the beginning of a new era. How do you view this development?

Marc Przybylski: This is a great opportunity for us! Over the past 25 years, we've proven that we are successful in container cleaning. Through the partnership with ZÖLLER-KIPPER, we can now further develop our technologies, win new customers, and significantly expand our market reach. Improved service coverage via ZÖLLER-KIPPER's existing service centers is also especially important to us.

What does this acquisition mean for ZÖLLER-KIPPER?

Alexander Kaiser: This merger strengthens our market position as a provider of cleaning solutions for waste containers. MOWA has established itself as a specialist in this field, particularly in the cleaning of underfloor containers – a service that was not part of our previous product portfolio. Now we can offer our customers an even more comprehensive range of services.

AUTHOR:
SABINE KÄMPER
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP



Certificate award ceremony at the Salzburg Chamber of Commerce: STUMMER Managing Director Johann Streif (2nd from left) with Operations Manager Robert Streif and Training Manager Andreas Reiter.



**Technology
that inspires**

Andreas Reiter
 Training Manager, Apprenticeship
 period from May 2016 to
 November 2019



**See
results**

Johannes Lechner
 Apprenticeship successfully
 completed in March 2025



**Incredibly
diverse**

Aid Cosic
 1st year of apprenticeship



**Right in the
middle of it**

David Peric
 2nd year of apprenticeship



**Very
practical**

Martin Dengg
 Special Constructions Team,
 Apprenticeship period from
 September 2015 to March 2019



**Do it yourself from
the very beginning**

Fabian Holzschuster
 1st year of apprenticeship



**Take
responsibility
early**

Christian Brandner
 Service Technician (Customer Service),
 Apprenticeship period from
 June 2010 to December 2013

Quality with a Seal

In March, STUMMER was recognized for the quality of its training by the Salzburg Chamber of Commerce and the Salzburg State Government. However, the true seal of quality is awarded to the company by the apprentices themselves: by staying with the company in large numbers after completing their training.

"Almost our entire mobile customer service team consists of former STUMMER apprentices," says Managing Director Johann Streif, with unmistakable pride in his voice.

Is it the working atmosphere, the work environment, or the direct contact with the trainers? Probably a combination of all three. "Our apprentices are not separated off in a special training workshop – they're directly involved in the real work from the beginning," explains Head of Training Andreas Reiter. Training as a vehicle construction technician takes 3.5 years, interspersed with nine-week blocks at vocational school.

"Usually, we take on one or two apprentices a year," says Reiter. "Currently, we have six. Not a single one has dropped out so far."

Qualified professionals are the backbone of the economy, and for companies to remain competitive, high-quality vocational training is essential, according to the awarding Chamber of Commerce.

Getting involved from day one

When STUMMER introduced interface management via MIT – Montieren im Takt (Assembly in Sync) – the training plan was also revised. "There are legal guidelines about what apprentices must learn – such as metal working, drilling, grinding... From the official requirement sheet, we created a STUMMER-specific training plan," explains Reiter. "The apprentice rotates through all departments, from production to warehouse and logistics to service. And they get hands-on from day one."

There are two employees per workstation, and the apprentice is the third team member. This ensures they learn the STUMMER way. From the second year of training, apprentices are eligible for the STUMMER performance bonus, and by the third year, they can also participate in the quality evaluation program. Additional external training is also possible, such as in welding, hydraulics, or high-voltage technology.

Training with advancement opportunities

"In our annual feedback meetings, we review what has already been done, where there's still room for improvement, and what the apprentice particularly enjoys. They can also express preferences for future roles," says Reiter. It's a concept that resonates – with both apprentices and evaluators.

The Chamber of Commerce praised the approach of giving apprentices trust and encouraging personal responsibility. The early integration into production was also positively highlighted, along with the long-term success of the training and the opportunities for advancement after the apprenticeship. One example: Head of Training Andreas Reiter was once an apprentice at STUMMER himself. ■

ONE OF US

As an open-minded, outgoing, and goal-oriented person, the new head of the southern branch of ZÖLLER-KIPPER, Marco Röming, is above all one thing: optimistic. In addition, he is highly empathetic and knows how to build trust. "I'm looking forward to proving my skills and commitment in a new environment!" Does he recall a valuable experience from a previous job? "At the time, I played a key role in the development and integration of a new site. Unexpected and extraordinary challenges showed me how much one can grow through new responsibilities and how essential a strong team is to a company's success. That experience had a lasting impact on me."

Pretty Cool

AUTHOR:
STEFANIE STÜTING
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

STUMMER waste collection vehicles truly shine in mountainous regions. These agile 7.5-to 12-ton trucks handle even the steepest streets and toughest winter conditions with ease. During the Ski World Championships, two Medium X4 units on eActros chassis were deployed on a very special assignment. »

For the first time, the municipality of Zermatt has now put a STUMMER Micro XL body on a fully electric Fuso eCanter 9C18 4x2 into operation.





Since 1988, the municipality of Galtür in Tyrol has been ordering a Mini XL from STUMMER — featuring all-wheel drive, an SK351 W+E bar lifter, and an 11-cubic-meter capacity.

Remote mountain villages offer their residents and visitors panoramic views as well as tough challenges. What kind of vehicle collects the waste here, especially when ice and snow make every trip an adventure? Vehicles with 4x4 drive can handle these difficult conditions with ease. STUMMER's regular customers therefore order customized vehicles for their special requirements.

Alpine climber in Tyrol

In winter, Galtür becomes the final outpost in Tyrol's Paznaun Valley. While the Silvretta High Alpine Road leads on to Partenen in the summer months, it closes from the end of October due to snow. The village's 800 residents swell to around 4,000 in winter, thanks to tourism. Narrow, steep streets and icy conditions make access challenging — especially for waste collection.

Galtür is the only municipality in the district where household waste is collected directly from homes.

"A real service for the residents," says public works-manager Markus Lorenz. To prevent contents from freezing, locals only put their bins out in the morning when temperatures are slightly higher.

Since 1988 the village invests in STUMMER vehicles — currently a Mini XL with all-wheel drive, an SK351 W+E lifting beam, and an 11-cubic-meter capacity, perfectly suited for the village's altitude of 1,584 meters.

"When our first STUMMER vehicle went into service in 1988, there were hardly any suppliers offering this size of truck with all-wheel drive and snow chains," Lorenz recalls. In winter, chains are fitted up to 15 times per season. The compact, nimble vehicle is in action every day: recycling on Mondays, plastics on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, residual waste on Thursdays, and cardboard on Fridays.

"For now," says Markus Lorenz, "one person can handle the job alone." There are four workers in total, each able to fill in for the others. "But if tourism keeps growing, things could get tight."

EuropeanPremiere in Zermatt!

Waste disposal in world-renowned Zermatt is a job for experts. With Europe's highest mountain station at nearly 3,900 meters, the booming tourism industry demands top efficiency. Ranked third among Swiss tourist destinations—just behind Zurich and Geneva—Zermatt is now taking a bold step forward in sustainable waste management.

The municipality has deployed a STUMMER Micro XL on a fully electric Fuso eCanter 9C18 4x2. This groundbreaking vehicle collects various types of waste using cutting-edge data technology. The fully electric chassis powers the entire superstructure via an onboard ePTO and is the first in Europe to feature an interface compliant with EN 1501-1:2021.

Florian Egger of Contena Ochsner AG is thrilled: "This project is the result of a successful collaboration between Daimler Truck Switzerland AG, KOCO Solutions AG, and our company. An integrated weighing and identification system enables precise data collection. The KOCO weighing software module ensures efficient data processing, cost transparency, and billing based on actual waste generation."

The compact powerhouse — STUMMER's MINI with SK 351 bar lifter on a MAN chassis — fits (almost) anywhere.

Carinthia: The compact powerhouse

A small but mighty vehicle is now in service in Carinthia: a two-axle MINI with SK 351 beam lifter from STUMMER, mounted on a MAN chassis, designed to deliver both specialization and flexibility.

"For the lakeside communities around Lake Wörthersee, we needed a low-profile vehicle that can fit through tunnels with just 3 meters of clearance," explains Bernd Seefried, Managing Director of KULT34. "At the same time, the routes go from lake-side to mountainous terrain with steep gradients."

He adds: "We needed a vehicle that's low enough for tunnels, yet with enough ground clearance for four-wheel drive. It also had to be narrow for tight streets, but still offer large capacity. Only STUMMER and MAN could meet all these contradictory requirements."

Four days a week, this "great little vehicle" collects household and commercial waste, paper, and organic materials. "Its predecessor served us for 14 years—and aged just as gracefully as we have," Seefried says with a smile.

X4 and SmartScan at the first green Ski World Championships

STUMMER also showcased its innovation at the world's first Green Ski World Championships. The SmartScan system analyzed waste-sorting behavior among nearly 200,000 fans each day. The result: a record-breaking 66% recycling rate, making the event a historic "GreenEvent." ■



SEMAT: Ready for Change

Jean-Christophe Rabiller and the production team (from left to right): Theodore Abeniche, Audrey Renault, Pedro Teixeira, Leandro Pereira Cupertino and Oligario Congalves.

AUTHOR:
ISABELLE CUROT
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

Communication, Goodwill, and High Standards—these are the core values that will take centerstage at SEMAT under the leadership of Jean-Christophe Rabiller. With his appointment as the new CEO, the company enters a new era—one defined by clear vision and ambitious goals.

A mechanical engineering expert, Rabiller steps into his role with a bold yet realistic action plan and a clear sense of direction. His mission: to create an inspiring work environment that fosters motivation and commitment. He places particular emphasis on open dialogue—both internally and externally—to establish a culture of constructive exchange.

At the same time, Rabiller is committed to maintaining high standards. He believes that ambitious expectations drive employees to actively contribute to the company's success. "We have the orders, the products, the customers, and the internal structure that allow us to achieve top performance quickly," he emphasizes. Customer satisfaction remains the top priority. Quality and on-time delivery are—and will continue to be—the key to SEMAT's long-term competitiveness.

A reason to celebrate

A true highlight of 2025: SEMAT is celebrating its 80th anniversary! This special milestone will be marked not only with employees, but also in grand-fashion at the POLLUTEC trade fair in Lyon this October. The celebrations offers the perfect opportunity to reflect on the company's history, reaffirm SEMAT's core values, and look ahead to the future with confidence.

2025 promises to be an exciting and memorable year for SEMAT. With a wealth of fresh ideas, new CEO Jean-Christophe Rabiller is taking the helm – and in October, the company will also celebrate a milestone anniversary.

As part of the ZOELLER GROUP, Rabiller sees SEMAT as well equipped to face up coming challenges. "We benefit every day from the group's innovative strength and have everything we need to shape the future successfully. Together, we're continuing SEMAT's success story," he sums up optimistically.

Jean-Christophe Rabiller extends his heartfelt thanks to all teams for their openness, dedication, and commitment to developing pragmatic and sustainable solutions. He also expresses special gratitude to Dr. Johannes F. Kirchhoff and Thomas Schmitz for their trust and invaluable support.

With a clear vision, strong values, and a dedicated team, SEMAT is perfectly positioned — and looks to the future with confidence.

2025 promises to be an exciting and memorable year for SEMAT.

With a wealth of fresh ideas, new CEO Jean-Christophe Rabiller is taking the helm—and in October, the company will also celebrate a milestone anniversary.

With a clear vision, strong values, and a committed team, SEMAT is perfectly positioned — and looks to the future with great confidence. ■



How an empty factory became a thriving production site

On January 1, 2024, Haller Benelux embarked on an ambitious mission: restarting production in Emmeloord, the former site of waste collection vehicle manufacturer Geesinknorba. The company had been declared bankrupt on November 22, 2023 — yet just one year later, the site is home to a solid organization with steadily growing production capacity. Managing Director Johan Dingemans reflects on the past year.

“When we started, there was literally nothing,” Dingemans recalls. “We had no gas, no water, and no electricity. Everything had to be rebuilt from the ground up.”

Despite these challenges, Haller Benelux quickly recognized the opportunity. The takeover allowed the company to expand its production capacity and significantly reduce lead times. “Long lead times are a serious issue in our industry. And the niches Geesinknorba had been active in were particularly interesting to us — for example, the unique ‘Big Bite’ compaction mechanism of the Magnum GPM and the multi-compartment rear loaders for separate waste collection.”

AUTHOR:
CAROLINE BRANDSMA
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP



Regaining trust

A crucial first step was rebuilding the trust of former Geesinknorba customers. Haller Benelux proactively reached out to them, resulting in new agreements with nearly all of those clients. A clear sign of renewed confidence came at the end of December 2024, when rental company Cleanmat Trucks placed an order for fifty waste collection vehicles.

Production ramped up quickly: by the end of February, the first truck rolled off the line, and by August, that number had already reached one hundred. By the end of 2024, a total of two hundred vehicles had been produced — plus fifty additional bodies for chassis preparation. “For 2025, we’re planning to produce 350 waste collection vehicles,” says Dingemans.

Innovation and product improvement

Haller Benelux is focusing on three product lines: the Medium MF2, the Medium MF4, and the Magnum GPM. “The MF2 features two chambers, while the MF4 has four and was specifically developed for the Scandinavian market.”



The Magnum GPM is also undergoing significant upgrades. “Waste can accumulate beneath the pivot point of the yoke if not properly cleaned. By raising the pivot point, we’ve eliminated this issue, making maintenance easier and reducing costs. We’ve also introduced structural improvements. This updated version — the Magnum G1 — will be officially presented to the public in May at the RDD trade fair in the Netherlands.”

The MF series software has also been updated. “After the takeover, we discovered that no software updates had been carried out for two years. Thanks to Zoeller’s expertise, we were able to address the issue quickly and effectively.”

Vision for the future

What began as a challenging takeover has since evolved into a successful new beginning. With ambitious plans, Haller Benelux continues to invest in innovation and growth. “We’re far from finished,” Dingemans says with a smile. ■



We wish you a restful summer.