

For immediate release

Investing in the Future: Koehler Group Innovation Campus Is Inaugurated

- **State-of-the-art work and laboratory environment provides ideal opportunities for development**
- **Koehler Group innovation and research activities have now been centralized and expanded extensively**
- **The Koehler Group's pioneering role is reinforced with a focus on the development of recyclable products**

Oberkirch, 05/12/2025 – The Koehler Group has now inaugurated its new Innovation Campus at its headquarters in Oberkirch. The new building, which will house the technological activities carried out by Koehler Innovation & Technology, provides employees with a state-of-the-art work and laboratory environment on an area of more than 1,300 m². Designed to optimize the use of space, this environment delivers ideal conditions for developing innovative and recyclable paper products – and not only features cutting-edge equipment, but also highlights such as a development laboratory, a central analytical chemistry area, recycling and biodegradability testing capabilities, and flexible open-plan spaces.

“This building is much more than just a place to work. It embodies our relentless pursuit of innovation, sustainability, and future-proof development. Our new open-plan office spaces are an expression of a modern work environment that nurtures creativity and teamwork. It's where the ideas that will enable us to continue being successful in the coming years will be born,” says Koehler Group COO Dr. Stefan Karrer while explaining the strategy of the family-owned company. The new Innovation Campus also merges and centralizes laboratory units that were previously separate so as to take full advantage of synergistic effects and make our technology team even more agile.

Investing in research and development reinforces the Koehler Group's pioneering role

By founding its Koehler Innovation & Technology subsidiary in 2019, the Koehler Group put its focus on the development of sustainable paper-based solutions that followed circular economy approaches, securing its pioneering role in the industry as a result. “We want to make the world a more sustainable place every day by designing products and processes for the circular economy. With the help of our new state-of-the-art laboratory environment and our fellow team members' know-how, we are making development – from the raw material to the finished product – a reality while also researching the solutions of tomorrow on a daily basis. Among other things, this should further optimize the practices and approaches that have enabled us to come up with our innovative Blue4est® blue cash register receipt and our high-performance flexible packaging paper for chocolate bars and ready-to-eat meals, for example,” explains Koehler Innovation & Technology Technology Corporate Director Dr. Christian Kölmel. Needless to say, extremely sophisticated building and technical considerations were incorporated into the construction of the new

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building. “The laboratory and equipment rooms span several floors and conform to the latest state of the art in terms of energy efficiency and occupational health and safety,” explains Koehler Innovation & Technology Plant Engineering Corporate Director Michael Trautmann.



Picture (left to right): Dr. Stefan Karrer (Koehler Group COO), Michael Trautmann (Central Plant Engineering corporate director, Koehler Innovation & Technology), Volker Oestreich (Head of Construction Planning – Central Plant Engineering, Koehler Innovation & Technology), Wolfgang Furler (Chairman of the supervisory board, Koehler Group), Dr. Christian Kölmel (Technology corporate director, Koehler Innovation & Technology), Klaus Furler (Supervisory board, Koehler Group), and Frank Lendowski (Koehler Group CFO) exploring the new innovation campus with great interest. Source: Koehler Group



2030 Sustainability Strategy

With its new Innovation Campus, the Koehler Group is helping achieve sustainable development goals in the area of successful future-proof products and services.

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About Koehler Innovation & Technology

Koehler Innovation & Technology pushes the envelope and sets new industry standards in everything it does, be it research, product and process development, plant engineering, analytical chemistry, intellectual property, or product safety. The company was founded in 2019 and currently has a team of over 130 experts working together to create sustainable and recyclable paper-based solutions for the future. These experts research materials and develop products and processes together with colleagues from the Koehler Group. Initial ideas are first put to the test through the innovation process and are then transformed into a prototype product in the lab. Next, the prototypes undergo usage tests in the company's own pilot and production systems to create a product that is ready for series production. Koehler Innovation & Technology's expertise and technical facilities are unrivaled. The company's experts are an integral component of its value chain, monitoring its products across all stages of the circular economy, right through to the end of the product lifecycle, and they are responsible for continually adjusting its processes to make its products better than ever before.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.koehlerinnovationandtechnology.com>

About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbon-less paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy”.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehler.com>

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