

For immediate release

Koehler Paper celebrates anniversary as production line 2 hits a milestone: 20 years of delivering outstanding performance

- **Production line 2 at the Kehl site: a thermal paper specialist**
- **Machine revolutionized the thermal paper market**
- **Continuous optimizations ensure extraordinary output figures**

Oberkirch/Kehl, Germany, 12/10/2021 – Koehler Paper, a Koehler Group company, now has the opportunity to celebrate an unusual birthday at the end of this year. Production line 2, consisting of paper machine 2 and coating machine 2, was put into operation at the Kehl site at the end of 2001 and accordingly has now played a part in the Oberkirch-based family-run enterprise's success story for a good 20 years.

Paper machine 2 is used exclusively for the production of thermal paper. With a length of 123 meters, the machine is longer than a soccer field. It is also the fastest thermal paper machine in the world, and is known for coupling its speed with astoundingly consistent quality. This all makes it possible to use it to produce more than 1 million checkout rolls a day, with these slips being found everywhere across the world.

Paper machine 2 revolutionized the thermal paper market

Paper machine 2 is the reason why Koehler Paper is so successful in the thermal paper market, as it enabled the company to produce lightweight thermal paper with grammages of less than 50 gsm. "Koehler pioneered lightweight thermal paper for POS with grammages of 48 gsm and less – that transformed the market. Truth is, the machine was predestined to make lightweight thermal paper to this very day," says Willy Früh, Director Thermal Paper Division at Koehler Paper. "When we talk about thermal paper production, you could say we've been playing in the Champions League for 20 years now.

"The fact that the machine keeps beating speed records time and time again and is one of the fastest offline coating machines of its time nowadays is something that we have the production line team to thank for in particular. The production line was also a guiding light for other investments at Koehler," adds Joachim Uhl, Mill Director at the Kehl site.

Continuous optimizations make paper machine a flagship model

Employees who were to work on production line 2 received training during the planning stage already. This made it possible to put the machine into operation smoothly back then and quickly start making

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ready-to-sell paper. However, it goes without saying that continuous optimizations were required in order to guarantee success in the long term.

Georg Streif, the Production Coordinator at the Kehl site, led the project's implementation on the production side of things at the time. Together with Joachim Fuchs, who is the Production Manager for production line 2 today, he takes a look back: "Since we put it into operation, we've made around 3,000 optimizations to paper machine 2, and when we put them all together, that's what has ultimately made the machine what it is today. And we're still getting a lot of great ideas from our employees. After all, the time after an optimization is also the time before the next one!"

At any rate, this has made paper machine 2 an extremely constant and reliable high-availability machine that continues to be industry-leading. We get the best results at speeds of over 1,600 m/min.



Figure: From left to right: Joachim Uhl (Mill Director at the Kehl site), Joachim Fuchs (Production Manager for Paper Machine 2), Georg Streif (Kehl Production Coordinator), and Thomas Peter (Production Manager Kehl site) next to paper machine 2. Source: Koehler Paper

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Figure: Paper machine 2 is characterized especially by its high speed and its astoundingly consistent quality. This all makes it possible to use it to produce more than 1 million checkout rolls a day, with these slips being found everywhere across the world.

Source: Koehler Paper

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More about the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run to this day. The Group's core area of business is the development and production of high-quality, specialty paper, including thermal paper, playing card board, drink coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and, since 2019, innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry, too. In Germany, the Koehler Group, with its around 2,500 employees, has five production sites, as well as three more in the USA. The Group operates on an international level, with an export ratio of 70% in 2020 and annual revenue of about 800 million euro.

As an energy-intensive enterprise, Koehler invests with its unit Koehler Renewable Energy in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydroelectric power, photovoltaics, and biomass. The Koehler Group has committed itself to producing more energy from renewable sources than is needed for paper production by 2030.

With the business unit Koehler Innovative Solutions, Koehler is also developing new business areas that are outside its core business of specialty paper production and energy generation.

More information is available here: <https://www.koehler.com>

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