

For immediate release

Koehler Becomes a Member of the World BioEconomy Circle

- **Koehler Joins the World BioEconomy Circle**
- **Exchanges between Bioeconomy Companies Gaining Importance**
- **Membership Underscores the Company's Sustainable Ethos**

Oberkirch, Germany, 6/15/2022 – The Koehler Group has joined the World BioEconomy Circle, a communication platform for stakeholders who have dedicated themselves to the subject of the bioeconomy. The objective of the BioEconomy Circle is to enable discussion of and improve on the latest developments, ideas, and visions in the circular bioeconomy, and to facilitate mutual learning.

The World BioEconomy Circle: A Product of the World BioEconomy Forum™

The BioEconomy Circle has grown substantially since it was introduced by the World BioEconomy Forum™, which was founded in 2018 by Jukka Kantola. The forum brings together a global community of stakeholders, who can use the platform to find out about a broad range of events and other activities in the field of the bioeconomy. It was set up in response to the increasing importance of this field. Its objectives were announced at the annual conference of the World BioEconomy Forum.

Members of the World BioEconomy Circle can take part in programs organized by the forum, and the circle also runs its own 'Insider Insights' events, where participants can share and discuss issues pertaining to the bioeconomy in a confidential environment.

International Significance of the Bioeconomy on the Rise

Especially in these times of climate change, companies are increasingly focusing on how they can act and operate sustainably. Products need to be environmentally friendly, as climate-neutral as possible, and manufactured from renewable raw materials. This not only means using paper packaging instead of plastic, but also investing in sustainable forestry, which helps to bind more CO₂.

Koehler, too, has set itself the objective of contributing to reducing emissions and therefore meeting the targets of the 2015 Paris Agreement, and, to this end, has committed to produce more renewable energy than is needed for its paper production by the year 2030. Koehler has already begun putting its green promise into action by converting its power plants to biomass and by signing a climate protection agreement with the Baden-Württemberg Ministry for the Environment. The first ever Koehler Group Sustainability Report, which was published recently, demonstrates just how deeply sustainability is embedded in the company's philosophy. Koehler Renewable Energy in particular is making an increasingly

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important contribution in this regard, as judicious use of resources has been inextricably linked with the task of securing the future of the company since it was founded over 210 years ago.

Earlier this year, Koehler Paper reached an important milestone when the cutting-edge production line 8 in Kehl was converted to run on 100% green electricity from local sources. Dr. Stefan Karrer, Chief Operating Officer of the Koehler Group, sums it up: "This not only underscores the sustainable philosophy behind our products, but also demonstrates that we are on the right track. Becoming a member of the World BioEconomy Circle provides us with an important platform for exchanging views with other members about the latest bioeconomy trends, and for expanding our visions even further."



Caption: Dr. Markus Wildberger, Corporate Director Technology at the Koehler Innovation & Technologie GmbH, receiving the World BioEconomy Circle certificate on behalf of the Koehler Group.

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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 2021 and annual revenue of about 1 billion 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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