

For immediate release

Koehler Group's Simon Pfeifer: Germany's Best Paper Technologist Apprentice

- **Best paper technologist apprentice in Germany trained by Koehler Group**
- **Koehler Group invests in top-quality training and state-of-the-art training centers**
- **Honor awarded by German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Berlin**

Oberkirch, Germany, 12/09/2025 – Once again, the training provided by the Koehler Group has delivered the goods, with Simon Pfeifer being honored as the best paper technologist apprentice in Germany. An exceptional score of 94 marked the completion of his apprenticeship, which he started in 2022 at the company's Oberkirch headquarters.

The fact that the Oppenau, Germany native was the best in his specialty is no mere coincidence. After all, the Koehler Group, which is engaged in the production of specialty paper and renewable energy, has consistently invested in training for years and made sure to always focus on quality and results that will continue paying dividends in the future. A prime example can be seen in its new general technical training center and paper technology center at its German sites in Willstätt and Oberkirch, which provide apprentices with cutting-edge learning environments.

Top-level training

During their three-year apprenticeship, aspiring paper technologists become familiar with the processes involved in making specialty paper, the control processes for complex production facilities, and a variety of test methods used to check paper and production quality. "We see training as an intergenerational contract: The investments we make in knowledge and skills today will be the innovation and progress of tomorrow. Young talent deserves real opportunities – and we're making sure to give them the best anyone has to offer," says Koehler Group Head of HR Development and Training Simone Wölfle.

The investments the company has made in training in the past few years speak for themselves: Koehler Group apprentices have won the Best in Germany award multiple times already, with the most recent winners being Nico Kirn (2023) and Tobias Baßler (2021). Simon Pfeifer continued the tradition this year at the 20th Best in Germany Awards organized by the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Berlin. The ceremony celebrated the best apprentices in Germany – around 200 total out of 250,000 exam takers this year. At the ECC Estrel Congress Center, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Peter Adrian presented the winners with their certificates and trophies, while German Minister for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth Karin Prien delivered the main speech for the event.



Figure: Germany's best paper technologist apprentice, Simon Pfeifer, was also honored internally for his achievements by the Koehler Group: From left to right: Dr. Stefan Karrer (COO), Hartmut Felsch (Oberkirch Mill Director), Simon Pfeifer (Best In Germany paper technologist), Bernd Heidenreich (Paper Training Instructor), Simone Wölfle (Head of HR Development and Training). Source: Koehler Group



2030 Sustainability Strategy

With its investments in training, the Koehler Group is helping achieve sustainability objectives in the area of "People, the Key to Success."



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 2024, 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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