

For immediate release

New Training Center for Papermaking Occupations: “Koehler Group Paper Campus” Opens in Oberkirch

- **State-of-the-art training center at the Koehler Group’s headquarters**
- **More training space for increasing training numbers**
- **Investment will boost skilled worker numbers and regional recruitment and training for young talent**

Oberkirch, Germany, 12/11/2025 – After a six-month reconstruction and renovation phase, the Koehler Group has now opened its new Paper Campus at its headquarters in Oberkirch. The cutting-edge training center for papermaking-specific occupations offers a future-focused learning environment for apprentices and students in dual-study programs on an area of 455 square meters. In addition, the center represents an investment of 1.1 million euros and a strong commitment by the company, which is known for producing specialty paper and renewable energy, to boosting skilled worker numbers and to the industry’s continued development.

The campus, located in close proximity to paper production, is equipped with state-of-the-art technology – from sheet forming units for paper production to laboratory islands for paper testing. The room concept also includes a training room, PC workstations for trainees, a spacious office for the three full-time trainers, a learning island with a media wall, and a lounge with a kitchen. In addition to practical training in the professions of paper technologist and machine and plant operator, students of the dual degree program in Sustainable Science and Technology are also supervised. Furthermore, production employees are supported in their continuing education in paper technology.

Two training centers in a single year

“With the Paper Campus, we’re not only investing in rooms and equipment, but also, and above all, in the future of our apprentices and our industry. The training campus is intended to inspire everyone and make them excited about paper, technology, and the countless opportunities our industry offers,” says Koehler Group Head of HR Development and Training Simone Wölfle.

Koehler had already opened its Tech Campus for general technical training in the German town of Willstätt last year. The new Paper Campus is the company’s second large investment within a year, and represents a clear commitment to the region and to recruitment and training for young talent.

Koehler Holding SE & Co. KG

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Figure: Those involved in the Koehler Group Paper Campus together with the trainees at the grand opening. At the buzzer, from left to right: Birgit Braun (Project Manager, Planning and Construction – Central Plant Engineering), Bernd Heidenreich (Paper Technology Trainer), Faruk Tascioglu (Paper Technology Trainer), Kai Furler (CEO), Simone Wölfle (Head of Training and Human Resources Development), Frank Lendowski (CFO), and Dr. Stefan Karrer (COO). Source: Koehler Group



2030 Sustainability Strategy

With its Paper Campus, the Koehler Group is helping achieve sustainable development goals in the area of “People, the Key to Success.”

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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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