

For immediate release

Koehler Group Expands Start-Up Funding and Enters into Strategic Partnership with UnternehmerTUM

- **Funding of innovations in the “Paper” and “Renewable Energy” core business segments**
- **Partnership with UnternehmerTUM, Europe’s leading center for innovation and business creation**
- **Support for start-ups in developing innovations**

Oberkirch, Germany, 12/01/2022—Koehler Group has entered into a partnership for funding innovations from the paper and renewable energy segments with non-profit UnternehmerTUM GmbH in Munich, which is responsible for 50 high-growth tech start-ups each year. As a family business, Koehler will form part of the FamilienunternehmerTUM initiative.

Funding of Innovations in the “Paper” and “Renewable Energy” Core Business Segments

The Koehler Group has been working closely with start-ups for many years now. These activities were recently brought together under Koehler Invest GmbH. Philipp Prechtel took over as CEO on November 1, and is now managing director for developing venture and start-up partnerships for Koehler. In line with this, the company has begun a strategic partnership with UnternehmerTUM, Europe's leading center for business creation and innovation, founded by Susanne Klatten in 2002. The center focuses on joint projects and developments with start-ups in the sense of collaborations. Koehler intends to fund innovations in its core business segments of paper and renewable energy as part of this. Kai Furler, CEO of the Koehler Group, on the new partnership: “With this partnership with UnternehmerTUM, we are investing in the Koehler Group’s innovative capacity.” The family business can look back on a 200-year history, in which the continual development of innovations always secured the success of future generations. “Providing support for start-ups also contributes to the ongoing development of entrepreneurship in Germany,” adds Furler.

As well as collaboration with start-ups, attractive investments in future technologies, both direct and indirect, are examined and sought after—chiefly in the fields of sustainability and the circular economy, which are particularly relevant to Koehler.

Europe’s Leading Center for Innovation and Business Creation

Founded in 2002, non-profit UnternehmerTUM GmbH sets up more than 50 high-growth technology start-ups and offers a unique service, making it Europe's leading center for innovation and business creation. Climate change, the energy revolution, scarcity of resources—society’s biggest challenges will only be

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solved through innovation. Entrepreneurship and new technologies are the key competitive factors as they create value and jobs and secure growth.

“Companies alone can no longer solve the many challenges of our time. In UnternehmerTUM's ecosystem, Koehler has the chance to meet strategically important implementation partners, and sometimes even surprising, unexpected collaborations,” said Christian Mohr, Chief Customer Officer of UnternehmerTUM and founder of the FamilienunternehmerTUM initiative. “At the same time, we are delighted that the Koehler Group is contributing its decades of expertise and industrial excellence and investing in new technological know-how.”



Figure: Koehler Group headquarters (Source: Koehler Group, Koehler-Group_Headquarters.jpg)

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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, drinks coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation papers, and also innovative specialty papers for the packaging industry since 2019. 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 70% in 2021, and brings in an annual turnover of around 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.

In addition, with its Koehler Innovative Solutions business unit, Koehler is dedicated to developing new business areas outside of special paper production and energy production.

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

UnternehmerTUM—Europe's Largest Center for Innovation and Business Creation

UnternehmerTUM is a unique platform for innovation development. UnternehmerTUM offers start-ups a complete service from the initial idea through to IPO. A team of over 350 employees helps to build the company and launch it on the market, as well as providing assistance with financing, including with venture capital. UnternehmerTUM offers established companies access to its ecosystem. UnternehmerTUM has many years of expertise in developing innovation strategies and implementing and creating spin-offs with technology-driven business ideas. Founded in 2002 by entrepreneur Susanne Klatten, the non-profit UnternehmerTUM gGmbH founds more than 80 high-growth technology start-ups per year—including Celonis, Konux, Liliium, and Isar Aerospace—making it Europe's leading center for business creation and innovation.



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