

For immediate release

Koehler Paper Rebuilds Paper Machine 5 for a more Sustainable Production

- **Rebuilding of paper machine 5 in Oberkirch ensures more sustainable production**
- **New technologically leading solution increases production capacity**
- **Koehler confirms long-standing, successful cooperation with Voith**

Oberkirch/Heidenheim, Germany, 08/05/2021 – Koehler Paper is also relying on leading Voith technologies in the second rebuild stage of paper machine 5. A new NipcoFlex shoe press in the existing press section ensures more sustainable production. The technologically leading solution from Voith also increases production capacity.

Successful Cooperation between Koehler and Voith

After a successful first rebuild stage of paper machine 5 in Oberkirch – with the installation of the Voith SpeedSizer film press and contactless qDryPro Compact high-performance drying system – Koehler Paper has confirmed its confidence in Voith. Hartmut Felsch, Mill Director at Koehler, Oberkirch, Germany: ““In Voith, we have found a strong and reliable partner with the highest quality standards for all areas of paper production.”

Thorsten Heidt, Senior Sales Manager at Voith also confirms: “We have a long-standing, successful business relationship with Koehler. Just recently, Koehler was able to achieve a world speed record with the new PM 8 line at the Kehl location thanks to our successful cooperation and continuous optimization. We are very pleased that Koehler has again opted for our leading technologies and that our solution convinced in all points.”

More Sustainability and Production Capacity through New Technologies

Koehler has selected the full-line supplier to deliver the second modernization stage, focusing on the much-proven NipcoFlex shoe press. The aim is to achieve an optimal production result. With the installation of the NipcoFlex shoe press in the existing press section, the dry content after the press is significantly increased. As a result, large amounts of steam can be saved in the dryer section for drying the paper web. The rebuild thus helps save energy and reduce CO2 emissions in the plant. In addition, the higher dry content increases line speed and production capacity. At the same time, work safety and operability are improved when changing the felt with the aid of the cantilever framing for the pick-up felt.

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The rebuild is a tailor-made solution and addresses the limited space available, especially on the drive side of the machine. As part of the rebuild, the transfer process from the press to the dryer section is optimized and a draw reduction is achieved to significantly increase efficiency. The press roll uses a TerraSpeed Trend Supreme ceramic coating, which is also utilized on other Koehler Paper machines. This guarantees optimized sheet release with long running times and a high level of cleanliness. The order is complemented by the proven QualiFlex shoe press sleeves and a start-up set for all press felts.

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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 paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry since 2019. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group has international operations, with exports of over 70% in 2020 and annual revenue of 770 million euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics and biomass. The Koehler Group has set itself the goal of producing more energy from renewable sources than it needs for its paper production operations by 2030.

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

About the Voith Group

The Voith Group is a global technology company. With its broad portfolio of systems, products, services and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the markets of energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials and transport and automotive. Founded in 1867, the company today has more than 20,000 employees, sales of € 4.2 billion and locations in more than 60 countries worldwide and is thus one of the larger family-owned companies in Europe.

The Group Division Voith Paper is part of the Voith Group. As the full-line supplier to the paper industry, it provides the largest range of technologies, services, and products on the market, and offers paper manufacturers integrated solutions from a single source. The company's continuous stream of innovations facilitates resource-conserving production and helps customers minimize their carbon footprint. With its comprehensive automation products and leading digitalization solutions from the Papermaking 4.0 portfolio, Voith offers its customers state-of-the-art digital technologies to improve plant availability and efficiency for all sections of the production process.

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Figure: Paper machine 5 after rebuild phase 1, Oberkirch, Germany

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