

Press release

## **90 years of trailblazing trailer history – Kögel Trailer GmbH celebrates 9 decades of innovation**

Burtenbach, Germany, 29 May 2024

**Founded in 1934 by Franz Xaver Kögel in Neu-Ulm, Kögel Trailer GmbH in Burtenbach has now existed for almost a century. A company that started out manufacturing floors, drop sides and bases for truck platforms developed into one of Europe's leading providers of trailer solutions with 1,200 employees in 11 countries. The company's history has been characterised by its innovative strength and the constant further development of its products.**

### **Out of the past and into the present**

For almost 90 years, Kögel has been setting milestones in the development and production of contemporary trailer solutions. These include innovations that have become established as the market standard, such as the first refrigerated semi-trailer in an all-plastic construction, the patented central-axle tipper trailer, the first cathodic dip-paint coating for optimal corrosion protection and much more. This innovative spirit and keen passion for engineering have led to the steady growth of the company and will continue to do so in the future.

The last nine decades of Kögel Trailer GmbH have been marked by the following highpoints:

- **1934** – Apprentice Franz Xaver Kögel takes over his former employer's wagon-making business in Ulm. He turns it into a car body construction business and starts to expand as early as 1937.

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- **1945** – Kögel develops and builds truck driver cabs, including the entire interior fitting. In 1953, a patent was filed by Kögel for “Washing, rinsing or similar facilities in vehicles”.
- **1958** – Kögel introduces the biggest long material semi-trailer ever built in the Federal Republic of Germany until that point. The trailer had a loading area of 36 metres and was produced for a customer in the steel trade, Klöckner Stahlhandel in Munich. It weighed 80 tonnes and could transport loads of around 50 tonnes.
- **1961** – Kögel builds Europe’s first refrigerated semi-trailer in an all-plastic construction. The expansion of the body width for refrigerated trailers to 2.6 metres was extremely economically significant for forwarding companies.
- **1976** – Kögel launches Europe’s first refrigerated semi-trailer in a self-supporting construction. The trailer is self-supporting and frameless, a revolutionary development in trailer construction for the 1970s.
- **1982** – Kögel introduces the world’s lightest serially produced semi-trailer. It has a tare weight of 6,350 kilograms and an “honest” payload of 25 tons, as it was advertised.
- **1996** – Kögel is the first manufacturer in Europe to deliver trailers with air suspension as standard.
- **2005** – The Kögel Big-MAXX expands the MAXX brand family. The trailer has a total length of 17.8 metres, meaning it offers an extra length of 1.3 metres. Its 37 pallet spaces provide 10 percent more loading volume. The trailer has established itself as the industry standard under the name Kögel EuroTrailer.
- **2016** – Kögel launches the newly developed Kögel Light Plus at IAA 2016. The trailer has a payload- and weight-optimised frame and a tare weight as low as 4,775 kilograms. It remains part of the Kögel portfolio and has already made thousands of sales.

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### **The challenges of the future**

Climate change and the associated need to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in freight transport also pose challenges for Kögel and its products. The company is already implementing its goal of being CO<sup>2</sup>-neutral (Scope 2) by 2030 step by step today. To this end, Kögel is not only investing in solar plants at its Burtenbach site, but also in efficient waste water treatment and reducing waste and energy consumption. By doing so, the Bavarian-Swabian company is showing that it is prepared to pursue a future in the region.

By specialising in and producing lightweight trailers, Kögel is making a substantial contribution to more environmentally friendly freight transport. For example, the Kögel Light Plus emits up to 8 percent less CO<sup>2</sup> and consumes up to 0.6 litres of diesel less per 1,000 kilograms of weight, compared to conventional trailers. This area is one of the company's special strengths, offering both economic and sustainable benefits for customers.

Christian Renners, CEO of Kögel Trailer GmbH, proudly explains: "We will remain true to our motto 'Economy meets Ecology' in the future. New product solutions from Kögel that are good for the climate and for our customers' economic situation will continue to characterise the Kögel portfolio."

You can download the images for this press release here:

<https://cloud.koegel.com/index.php/s/EEZk4RD3fnoPPJQ>

### **Company profile**

Kögel is one of the leading trailer manufacturers in Europe. With its commercial vehicles and transport solutions for freight-forwarding companies and the construction industry, the company has been delivering "made-in-Germany"

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engineering quality for more than 90 years. Kögel lives up to its responsibility to design transport and logistics processes in an environmentally and climate-friendly manner in consultation with politicians and customers. The company's guiding principle "Economy meets Ecology - Because we care" is a promise: Kögel supports all customers with exceptional expertise, in-depth industry knowledge and, above all, durable, ecologically and economically sustainable products in lightweight construction. The company headquarters and main production facility of Kögel Trailer GmbH are located in the Bavarian town of Burtenbach. Kögel also has factories and sites in Ulm (Germany), Duingen (Germany), Choceň (Czech Republic), Verona (Italy), Gallur (Spain), Kampen (Netherlands), Corcelles-en-Beaujolais (France), Schärding (Austria), Padborg (Denmark) and Moscow (Russia - idle).

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