

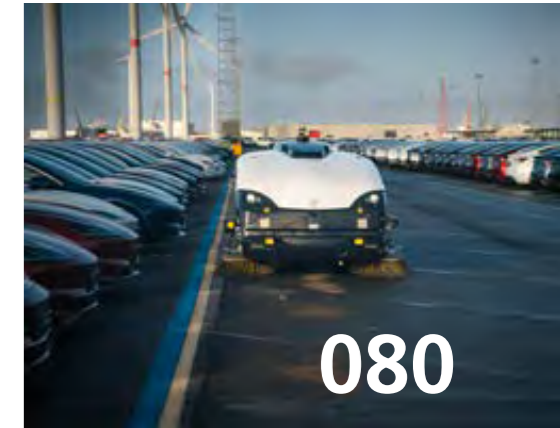
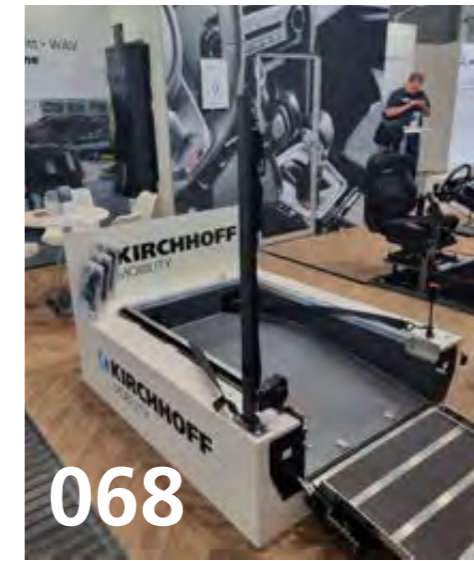
K>MOBIL

THE KIRCHHOFF GROUP MAGAZINE



How does KIRCHHOFF Automotive contribute to making vehicles lighter, safer and more sustainable? J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff, Chairman of the Board of Management and CEO (left), explained this to Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz and VDA President Hildegard Müller during the IAA Mobility opening tour. [Continued on page 52](#) ▶

Content



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Change and Continuity

**Dear Customers and Friends
of our Corporate Group,
Dear Employees,**

The industry in Europe is facing profound changes. Almost daily we hear about job cuts in traditional companies; in Germany alone, more than 50,000 jobs in the automotive industry have been lost in recent months. But now it takes more than just optimism – real changes are needed. The causes are diverse and cannot be managed by confidence alone. Politics is called upon to finally improve the framework conditions for companies, as international competition is noticeably intensifying. While Asian industrial companies have gained enormous knowledge and quality in recent years, we in Europe and especially in Germany continue to struggle with excessive bureaucracy, high additional wage costs, and high energy prices, which make competition more difficult.

At the same time, tariffs burden global trade and repeatedly destroy supply chains perfected over decades. The latest protectionist measures by the USA show: isolation leads in the long term to less innovation and higher costs for consumers. I am therefore convinced that tariffs will not strengthen the U.S. economy but will weaken it in the long run. Nevertheless, at KIRCHHOFF Automotive we now have to prepare with great effort and cost to examine alternative procurement markets and align our supply chains as best as possible with the trade policy framework (see article on page 38). ▶

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And despite all adversities, we do not leave the paths we have taken.

At **KIRCHHOFF Automotive**, we continue to commit to CO₂ reduction. For example, in the production of an underride guard for battery-electric vehicles, we use a new aluminum alloy that has a better CO₂ footprint (see article on page 12). And despite increasing anti-globalization efforts, we will continue to be a globally operating company, proud of our international locations and their dedicated employees, and continue to invest in our worldwide plants. In the summer, we celebrated not only the 25th anniversary of our plant in Querétaro, Mexico, but also the opening of one of the most environmentally friendly KTL systems in our new Mexican plant in San José de Iturbide (see article on page 62).

Based on new orders for larger and more complex assemblies, we have made numerous investments worldwide in additional modern, highly automated systems. These are equipped with state-of-the-art robot technology and image processing systems. Robots automatically detect and position components. Parts are picked directly from boxes and handed over in the correct orientation. An internally developed Energy Monitoring System controls the energy requirements of our systems. With further tests on alternative camera systems and AI integration, we are driving the automation process forward.

This year we were able to celebrate several international awards. With the Swedish Steel Prize 2025, we were honored together with other development partners for a groundbreaking steel innovation that improves crash safety through higher energy absorption while reducing vehicle weight. In the Young Energy Europe Project 2024, our Polish winning team impressed with an innovative solution for CO₂ reduction by optimizing the cooling system for hot forming at the Gliwice plant. For the repeated time, we were recognized as Supplier of the Year 2024 by General Motors – an acknowledgment of top performance in quality, delivery, and reliability. That we are an important partner for our customers is also shown by the award from Stellantis with the “Supplier of the Year” Award. Here we are among the 20 outstanding global suppliers honored by Stellantis. Our commitment to operational excellence and solution orientation was particularly recognized (see article on page 36).

In the area of sustainability, our efforts were once again rewarded with the prestigious EcoVadis Silver Medal. EcoVadis assesses how effectively companies integrate the principles of sustainability and social responsibility into their business and management systems. Here we are among the top 5% in our industry. ▶

Fortunately, we can continue to celebrate successes in these difficult times. For example, our appearance at the IAA Mobility in Munich: Under the motto “Engineered For Your Needs,” we were able to welcome numerous board members of our customers to our booth and convince them of our capabilities for the development and production of the car bodies of the future – whether with electric, hybrid, or combustion engines, we develop the perfect solution for the individual requirements of our customers (see articles on pages 47 and 52).

We have also succeeded in acquiring new customers: Thanks to our decades of successful business in China with our own large production facilities, we were able to win orders from two new Chinese automobile manufacturers who are now building their own plants in Europe for the first time. This allows us to further expand and diversify our balanced customer and model portfolio and compensate for sales problems of certain customers and vehicle categories to some extent (see interviews on page 56).

In addition to great adaptability, our corporate group, which looks back on a history of more than 240 years, has always been characterized by continuity. Thus, at the top management level, in addition to new external specialists, we always rely on the experience of our own junior staff as one of the keys to our success. I am pleased that we have succeeded in filling the management positions of **KIRCHHOFF Automotive** and **ZOELLER** from within our own ranks, after Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch and Thomas Schmitz will retire after many years of very successful work (see articles on pages 30 and 86).

Adaptability and resilience characterize the **KIRCHHOFF Group**. Despite difficult conditions, we will be able to maintain sales at the previous year’s level with 13,550 employees and 3.2 billion euros in the past fiscal year. We owe this above all to the trust of our customers and the extraordinary commitment of our employees.

The year 2025 was characterized by strategic milestones and technological innovations for **KIRCHHOFF Ecotec**, while the general investment restraint in the waste management industry challenged both business areas of the FAUN and ZÖLLER Group. Despite these market challenges, both companies set important strategic accents.

For **ZOELLER**, 2025 turned out to be a year of contrasts: After a strong start to the year, there was a significant cooling in investment behavior – especially among private waste disposal companies in the commercial waste sector. The municipal sector also showed restraint. ZOELLER acquired a majority stake in MOWA Mobile Waschanlagen GmbH in January, thereby strengthening its position as a leading provider of cleaning solutions for containers. In July, FAUN and ZOELLER jointly acquired VISY GmbH in equal shares. With this acquisition, both companies are pooling their strengths in the area of digitization and intelligent system solutions for the first time. The digital offerings of FAUN subsidiary KOCO and ZOELLER company SCANTEC will in future be combined under one roof with VISY and form a digital competence center for AI solutions in waste management logistics. Technologically, ZOELLER demonstrated innovative strength with the AI-supported assistance system Z-CAM for rear-area monitoring. The new control generation ZCSII harmonizes perfectly with AI tools such as Z-CAM and provides additional safety (see article on page 18).

At **FAUN**, the focus was on safety, comfort, and reducing operating costs and emissions of the products: New options such as glove dryers or illuminated, heated handles simplify everyday work. A highlight was the successful deployment of the autonomous Trombia Free in Kuopio, Finland. Since April, the electric sweeping robot has been cleaning up to 18,000 m² nightly – quietly, energy-efficiently, with low emissions, and significantly more thoroughly and economically than conventional sweepers. The Robotics-as-a-Service model enables easy entry into autonomous cleaning for ports, airports, or industrial areas.

At the end of 2025, a significant generational change will take place: After more than two decades, Thomas Schmitz will hand over management at the beginning of 2026 to Markus Dautermann, COO since 2020 and Managing Director of ZOELLER SYSTEMS Czech Republic, who stands for continuity with a focus on economical products, digitization, and customer-oriented service concepts. Dr Johannes F. Kirchhoff, CEO of KIRCHHOFF Ecotec, thanked Thomas Schmitz very much for his commitment to the outstanding development of ZOELLER over the past 23 years.

The 2025 financial year once again presented **WITTE Tools**, as a manufacturer of high-quality screwdrivers, with considerable challenges. Sales figures declined – a trend that had already emerged in the previous year and now continued. The main reason for this was the persistently weak economic situation in Europe, which led to noticeable uncertainty among many consumers and corresponding reluctance to buy. The U.S. business was also not spared from the adverse conditions. Protectionist trade policies and the associated higher import duties additionally burdened sales in this important market and contributed to the decline in revenue. Despite this difficult starting position, we were able to successfully complete the modernization projects initiated in 2024. This includes, for example, the use of new injection molding tools,

manufactured according to the latest technological standards and precisely adapted to our modern 3K injection molding system. This allows us to work even more precisely and reduce material usage – an important contribution to both the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of our production.

The customer portfolio proved stable in 2025. To open up new markets, we are increasingly focusing on international presence. By the end of the year, trade fair participations are planned in South America – specifically in Argentina and Colombia – as well as in Vietnam. The goal: to gain a foothold in high-growth regions and broaden our geographical business base (see article on page 70).

In the **KIRCHHOFF Mobility** business unit, we were able to make important progress in 2025. We further developed our own products, optimized processes, and consistently pursued internationalization. At REHACARE 2025 in Düsseldorf, our solutions attracted great – also international – interest and once again confirmed the innovative strength and customer proximity of KIRCHHOFF Mobility (see article on page 68). With the proven, space-saving retractable wheelchair lift SF 350 III, the preparation of EasySpeed 2.0, and the expansion of our cooperations – including with Mercedes-Benz AG – we are laying the foundation for further growth and an even stronger market presence. An important milestone this year was the successful relocation of

our core competence in rear conversions from Bad Zwischenahn to Kronau, which further strengthens our structures and opens up new synergies. Particularly pleasing is the positive development in Switzerland, where we are now represented nationwide with eight partner locations and a large multilingual team. One challenge remains the recruitment of qualified specialists for our workshops – here we are investing specifically in training and employer attractiveness. With these measures and successes, the course is set for sustainable positive development.

Dear customers and friends of our company, dear employees, the management of our corporate group sincerely thanks you for your loyalty, your great commitment, and your active cooperation. We look forward to continued good and successful collaboration.

My sister, my brothers, our families, and I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas, all the best, and good health in the new year. We remain on course – with innovative strength, international presence, and the firm will to actively shape the challenges of our time.

Warm regards and a hearty "Glückauf" (best luck)!
Yours,



J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff

Navigating the ESG Maze: Challenges of Compliance in the Automotive Supply Chain



In the automotive industry, expectations regarding ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) are rapidly evolving. As a Tier 1 supplier, we are committed to supporting our customers in developing more sustainable vehicles. Behind the scenes, however, the path to compliance with sustainability regulations is becoming increasingly complex and fragmented – and therefore more challenging.



ESG: One Goal – Many Systems

OEMs are now collecting more ESG data than ever before – often very similar in scope and content. However, instead of a common platform, different tools and systems are used to capture this information. Among the most common are SAQ (Sustainability Assessment Questionnaire), EcoVadis and CDP. In addition to these platforms, several OEMs continue to use their own proprietary solutions, requiring ESG data to be submitted in formats that are incompatible with each other. This fragmented landscape leads to duplication of effort, inefficiencies and an increased risk of inconsistencies.

„A more unified approach – ideally with one or two widely accepted tools – would significantly reduce administrative overhead and allow suppliers to focus on improving sustainability performance rather than formatting data.“

Anna Szklarz, Global Director CSR & Sustainability at KIRCHHOFF Automotive.

Carbon Footprint Reporting: A Patchwork of Expectations

The situation is even more complex when it comes to carbon footprint reporting. Requirements vary greatly – both in terms of the data expected (Product Carbon Footprints (PCFs) or Corporate Carbon Footprints (CCFs)) and in terms of quality, granularity and methodology.

Some OEMs provide structured templates or refer to recognized frameworks such as the GHG Protocol or ISO 14067, while others rely on customized questionnaires or informal requests. A few still do not require any CO₂ data at all. This lack of uniformity makes it difficult to establish scalable internal processes and leads to confusion about what constitutes ‘good’ carbon reporting.

However, there is hope: Initiatives such as Catena-X are gaining momentum and could pave the way for standardized, interoperable carbon footprint reporting across the entire automotive industry value chain. These solutions promote transparency, data traceability and a common language for emissions – something the industry urgently needs.

**AUTHORS: ANNA SZKLARZ, GLOBAL DIRECTOR CSR & SUSTAINABILITY KIRCHHOFF AUTOMOTIVE
MACIEJ DERELA, CSR & SUSTAINABILITY ASSISTANT KIRCHHOFF AUTOMOTIVE**

The Hidden Costs of Compliance

The number of ESG-related audits, initiated by OEMs as part of their supplier due diligence processes, has risen steadily in recent years. These audits are carried out directly by the OEMs or by external companies – the costs are usually borne by the audited company.

But the financial burden is only part of the story. The real challenge lies in the preparation. While paper-based audits are time-consuming but feasible, on-site factory audits require operational readiness, cross-functional coordination and often real-time demonstrations of compliance.

For global companies like ours, this often poses a logistical challenge: Most of our plants do not have any sustainability experts among their workforce,

resulting in potential problems with managing the audit process. This creates a risk of inconsistent audit outcomes — not due to non-compliance, but due to lack of local preparedness or ESG-specific expertise.

A Call for Smarter Collaboration

The automotive industry is making real progress on sustainability, but the current landscape is too fragmented to be truly effective. Without aligned tools, consistent carbon reporting frameworks, and coordinated audit processes, suppliers are left navigating a maze of overlapping and sometimes conflicting requirements.

To move forward, the industry needs to prioritize standardization and collaboration. This would reduce the administrative burden and allow us to allocate our time and resources in working on the actual impact. ■

Customer	Self Assessment Questionnaire	EcoVadis	CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project)	Manufacture 2030	CCF (Corporate Carbon Footprint) - general requirements	PCF (Product Carbon Footprint) - general requirements	RSCI (Responsible Supply Chain Initiative)	RBA (Responsible Business Alliance)	Other
European OEM	■		■						
European OEM	■				■	■	■		
European OEM	■				■	■			
European OEM	■		■				■	■	■
European OEM	■	■	■		■	■			
European OEM	■		■		■	■			
European OEM	■		■		■	■			
European OEM	■		■						
European OEM	■		■						
American OEM		■	■	■	■		■	■	
American OEM	■		■	■	■		■	■	
American OEM		Own Questionnaire			■			■	
Asian OEM		Own Questionnaire				■			
Asian OEM			■	■	■	■			
Asian OEM					■	■			
Asian OEM		Own Questionnaire							

■ = OEMs required solution

ESG requirements matrix: A lack of consistency in CO₂ footprint reporting requirements makes it difficult to establish scalable internal processes and leads to confusion about what constitutes “good” CO₂ reporting.

AUTHOR: UWE HADWICH
GLOBAL DIRECTOR PROCUREMENT KIRCHHOFF AUTOMOTIVE

Lighter, Greener, Better: Sustainable Aluminum for Electromobility

Together with our long-standing partner Speira, we are setting new standards in the underride protection for electric vehicles – with an innovative aluminum alloy that combines sustainability and top quality.

Since 2001, KIRCHHOFF Automotive and the aluminum rolling and recycling company Speira have been working together successfully. What began as a collaborative partnership has now evolved into a flagship project for sustainable mobility. At our Iserlohn site, we produce underride protection for an electric vehicle model – using an aluminum solution that not only impresses technically but also makes a significant contribution to climate protection.

Electromobility presents us with new challenges: Batteries and drive systems in electric vehicles weigh up to three times more than those in conventional combustion engines. This makes it all the more important to intelligently reduce weight in other areas. Aluminum is the ideal solution: the material is not only lightweight and corrosion-resistant, but also extremely strong and fully recyclable – perfect conditions for future-proof vehicle components.

A particularly eco-friendly alloy

Together with Speira, we have switched to a particularly environmentally friendly alloy. The new aluminum variant contains at least 75 percent recycled material and significantly reduces the CO₂ footprint – while maintaining the same quality and without requiring adjustments to the production processes. The challenge was to ensure that the new alloy could be formed and laser-welded just as well as the previous material. The transition needed to happen without interrupting production. Thanks to intensive testing and close coordination between our teams in Iserlohn and the Speira experts in Bonn, we succeeded: production continues smoothly, the high component quality remains fully intact – and the ecological footprint has been significantly reduced.

The optimized alloy currently has a CO₂ value of 4.88 kg per kilogram of aluminum. Speira has committed to continuously improving this figure. By 2029, the value is expected to drop to 3.2 kg CO₂ per kilogram. This successful transition is more than just a technical achievement. It demonstrates that ecological responsibility and economic efficiency can go hand in hand. Together with Speira, we are already exploring where else we can use the sustainable alloy. The foundation has been laid for a partnership that combines innovation and sustainability – actively contributing to the decarbonization of the automotive industry. ■

With an innovative aluminum alloy, the underride guard combines lightweight construction, safety, and sustainability.



SUM, SUM, SUM

This year, Maja and Willi moved into FAUN, together with about 40,000 brothers, sisters, and one queen.

Not in a “far-away land,” as the theme song of the Maya the Bee series suggests, but right here on the factory grounds in Osterholz-Scharmbeck, FAUN launched a rather special project. Not a new waste truck, not a new sweeper, but our very own bustling bee initiative.

Five colleagues teamed up to care for the bees and harvest honey as hobby beekeepers. In June, the first colony, affectionately named “BEEatles,” moved into the blue hive, followed in summer by a gifted offshoot christened “BEEyonce.” The goal for 2026: build three to four more colonies so our little FAUN apiary can continue to grow.

By August, the care and effort paid off and the first “liquid gold” was ready to be jarred, and around 14 kilograms of honey were raffled among FAUN employees. By autumn, the honey season came to an end. Both the main colony and the young colony were prepared for winter. Everything the roughly 40,000 worker bees, the queen, and her drones now store in their combs serves one purpose: survival through the cold months. The Varroa treatment – an essential health measure against the bees’ greatest threat – was also carried out.

FAUN’s beekeeping crew in action.



Things are getting wild here:



Environmental and Species Protection

But the project is about far more than honey. With our bees, we’re supporting environmental and species protection while strengthening our ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) commitment. The project brings people together, promotes sustainability, and shows how much impact we can make when we work hand in hand.

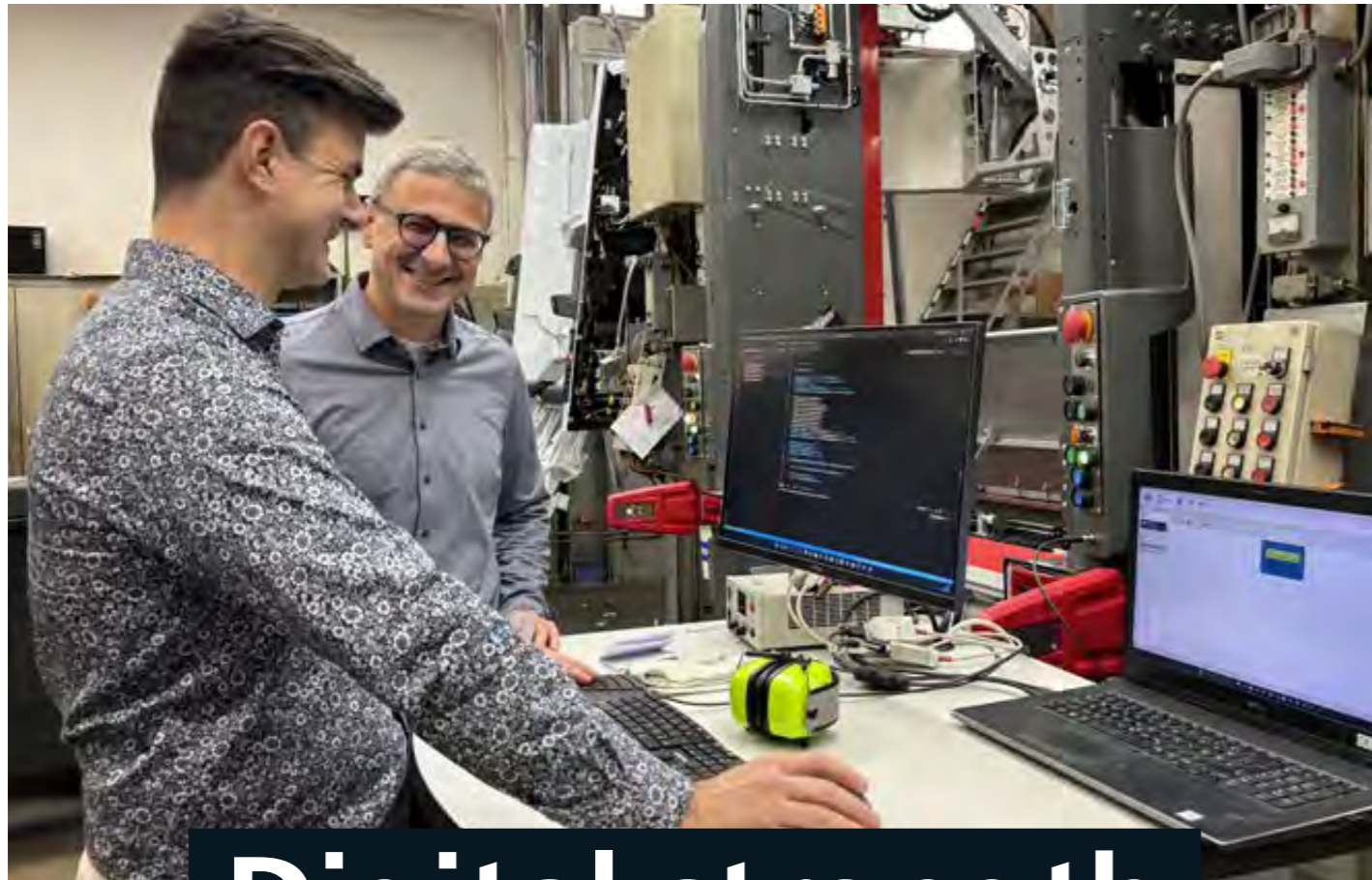
And the honey? It goes to social organizations, to customers as a small token of appreciation, or as a sweet surprise for the team. Maybe a jar will even find its way to you.

A huge thank-you to our “FAUN BEEgees” – Gerhard Vogel, Mark Speckenbach, Florian Surmann, Pascal Nehls, and Mirco Hoedt – for their dedication and enthusiasm. ■



Top: Busy “BEEatles” at work on the honeycomb. **Left:** The bees seal the filled cells with beeswax – a process called capping – to protect the honey. **Center:** Uncapping the combs to access the honey beneath. **Right:** Spinning the frames to extract the honey, which is then filtered and bottled.

AUTHOR: CLAUDIA SCHAU
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER
FAUN GROUP



Digital strength under one roof

Through the acquisition of ViSy GmbH, ZOELLER and FAUN are combining their strengths in AI, image analysis, and system integration, setting the stage for a new era in intelligent waste management.

**INTERVIEW: STEFANIE STÜTING
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP**

Digitalization is driving rapid change in the waste disposal sector, making systems smarter, data more connected, and processes more efficient. By acquiring ViSy GmbH in summer 2025, ZOELLER and FAUN are taking a decisive step in steering this transformation. Top expertise in vehicle technology, sensors, AI, and cloud systems is now united under a single

roof—aiming to make the waste disposal logistics of the future safer, smarter, and more sustainable. We spoke with Dr Bojan Ferhadbegović, Head of Development & Design at ZÖLLER-KIPPER and Managing Director of SCANTEC, and Markus Fick, Managing Partner & CEO of ViSy, about the motivations and outlook behind this move.

What was the deciding factor in FAUN and ZOELLER's acquisition of ViSy GmbH?

Dr Bojan Ferhadbegović: By acquiring ViSy, FAUN and ZÖLLER are purposefully shaping their digital future. We believe digitalization will deliver significant advantages for our customers, from streamlined work processes to enhanced vehicle safety. With ViSy on board, we can realize these benefits faster and more effectively.

Markus Fick: We have always aimed to make workflows and the operational environment of waste disposal vehicles both more efficient and safer. Becoming part of the group allows us to embed our solutions more deeply into vehicles and superstructures, while simplifying their use—for instance, by reducing the number of monitors in the cab. This creates real added value for the entire group and our customers.

Where do you see the greatest synergies between the ViSy solutions and the existing digital systems from FAUN and ZOELLER?

Dr Bojan Ferhadbegović: With deep experience in artificial intelligence, image analysis, and telemetry, ViSy complements the AI solutions offered by our subsidiary SCANTEC, creating natural synergies. When combined with ZÖLLER and FAUN's vehicle and control expertise, these capabilities enable entirely new system solutions that are poised to redefine industry standards.

Markus Fick: Our existing digital platforms, such as the Kocofleet cloud portal, already provide powerful capabilities. ViSy adds ideal complementary solutions, including municipal container management and a digital reversing register. Moving forward, closer integration of hardware and software in vehicles will enable new functionalities and make integration even easier for our customers.

The acquisition of ViSy is a strategic step forward in the digitalization of waste disposal vehicles. AI-driven systems, connected data, and cloud services are merging into a cohesive digital framework – showing that the future of waste disposal logistics will be intelligent, interconnected, and secure. ■

Left: Dr Bojan Ferhadbegović, Head of Engineering and Design at ZÖLLER-KIPPER.
Right: Markus Fick, Managing Partner & CEO ViSy.



AUTHOR: STEFANIE STÜTING
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

Digitalization as a Game Changer

How ZOELLER is setting new standards with the Z-CAM and ZCSII control systems.

When innovation evolves into system intelligence:

For the ZOELLER Group, 2025 marked a year of major digital milestones. With the next generation of AI-supported Z-CAM and ZCSII control systems, ZOELLER is introducing two technologies that will have a lasting impact on the waste management industry. Both systems represent a true paradigm shift—toward genuine digital system intelligence. Logic, learning capability, and safety come together in one integrated platform, offering a glimpse through the keyhole into the future of waste collection technology.



Z-CAM – Artificial intelligence for enhanced rear-zone safety

With Z-CAM, ZOELLER has developed an AI-driven rear-area assistance system that actively monitors the workspace behind the vehicle. While traditional cameras simply displayed what was happening, Z-CAM understands what is happening – and reacts in real time.

The software continuously analyzes the rear area, reliably differentiates between people and containers, and evaluates risks within milliseconds. If a person enters the danger zone, the system prevents the lifter from starting or stops it immediately. It acts proactively and preventively— an industry first.

Z-CAM also automatically detects whether a two-wheel or four-wheel container is in use and switches operating modes on its own. This saves time and simplifies handling.

“The Z-CAM is the first product of its kind on the market,” says Dr Bojan Ferhadbegović, Head of Development and Design at ZÖLLER-KIPPER.



“We’re very satisfied with the level of integration and the responsiveness.”

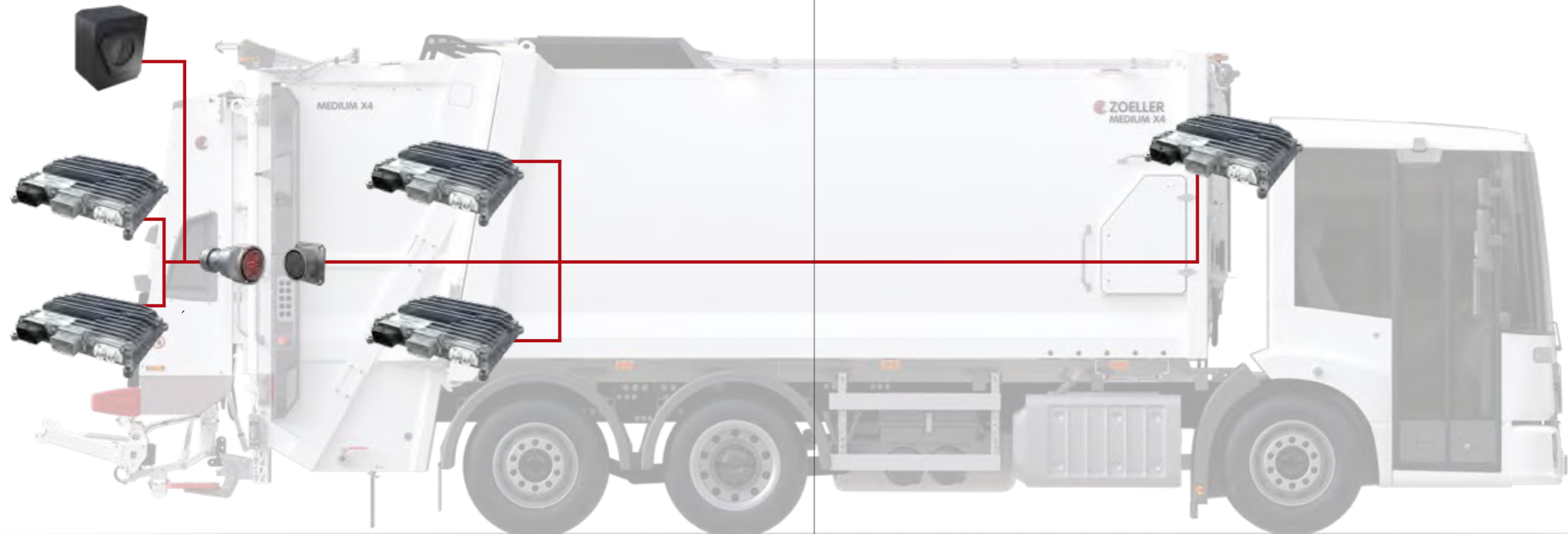
A key advantage: the system can be retrofitted to DELTA, Rotary, and Epsilon lifters. This allows municipalities and waste management companies to upgrade their fleets step by step to meet the latest safety standards – without purchasing new vehicles.

The Z-CAM architecture is modular and adaptive, making future expansion possible. Additional safety and analysis features – such as advanced object recognition or intelligent diagnostics – can be added later. This lays the groundwork for a new generation of connected waste collection vehicles.

Together, ZCSII and Z-CAM illustrate the digital transformation underway across the ZOELLER GROUP. By uniting mechanics, electronics, and artificial intelligence, both systems create an integrated platform that reshapes safety, efficiency, and long-term viability. ▶

Key Advantages of the Z-CAM at a Glance

- Hazard Prevention through Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Object Detection: Accurately distinguishes between people and containers – in real time
- Response: Automatic interventions such as start prevention, stop, or lifter slowdown depending on risk assessment
- Retrofittable: Easy integration into existing lifter systems within the ZOELLER GROUP
- Future Potential: System architecture provides room for new application scenarios
- Efficiency & Convenience: Automatic mode switch between 2-wheel and 4-wheel containers saves time and effort



ZCSII – The digital core of modern waste collection vehicles

ZCSII introduces a new generation of control systems that unifies the vehicle and body into an intelligent whole. Acting as the central nervous system of modern waste collection trucks, it integrates mechanics, electronics, and software into a learning, adaptive unit.

“The new control system is a quantum leap for the industry,” says Dr Bojan Ferhadbegović. “With this interface, we’re setting new standards. It turns the vehicle and body into a single system – a single unit.”

Using a CAN-based architecture, ZCSII links sensors, actuators, and software modules, interprets data in real time, and adjusts movements autonomously. The result: smoother workflows, more precise control, reduced wear, and improved safety.

The system is also easier to operate. An intuitive CAN keypad with LED feedback and a clearly structured display guides users through processes, reduces operating errors, and documents all system states.

Its open software concept makes ZCSII future-ready: updates and new function packages can be installed over the air. This makes it not only the intelligence behind current systems, but also the foundation for future generations.

The DELTA 2325 is the first application of the new control system– and it fully leverages its capabilities: automatic stroke detection, adaptive force curves, and complete system control. When combined with AI-based tools like Z-CAM, it delivers a new level of digital integration. ■

Some New Features of the ZCSII Control System:

- Self-calibration of the lifter
- Unified behavior across all lifters
- Complete system control (the lifter controls the body and vice versa)
- Self-monitoring and automatic system adjustment
- Improved self-diagnostics
- Optimized documentation of software versions and parameters
- Over-the-air software updates (SOTA)
- Connectivity to the ZOELLER Cloud for enhanced service and predictive maintenance



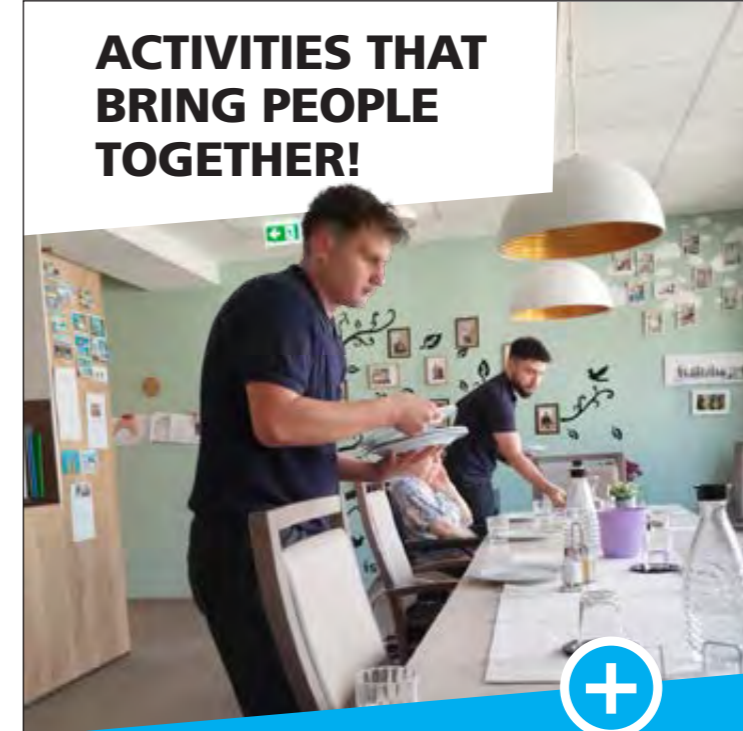
„Making a difference together“ – that was the motto of our kick-off event for a new apprentice project focused entirely on social commitment. This cross-year initiative was launched in the summer in cooperation with the Caritas senior living community in Attendorn/Germany.

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SOCIAL COMMITMENT WITH HEART

ACTIVITIES THAT BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER!



FROM GARDENING TO RAFFLES WITH COFFEE AND CAKE.

The project is intended to become a permanent initiative through regularly changing activities. The apprentices gain experience in interacting with people whose everyday skills are limited due to age, and support them through various projects. Apprentices from all training years actively contribute to idea development, planning, design, implementation and support.

Our cooperation partner is the “Caritas Senior Living Community at Alter Markt for People with Dementia” in Attendorn. This facility focuses on providing residents with an individual and largely self-determined life. Currently, 13 people live there.

Whether it’s gardening, game afternoons, or coffee and cake with a raffle – in the coming months and years, our apprentices will bring fresh energy to the senior living community through their activities. And what makes it special: all training years are involved from planning to implementation. We are proud of such strong commitment! ■



Tuning In with Natasha Philpott – The Voice Behind K>VOICES

K>VOICES, the new podcast from KIRCHHOFF Automotive, invites listeners to discover the people and stories that shape our company. Host Natasha, Communication & Marketing Specialist in North America, draws on her journalistic background to lead authentic, inspiring conversations with colleagues from around the world.

**INTERVIEW: LAUREN O'BRIEN
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER
KIRCHHOFF AUTOMOTIVE**



K>VOICES is the new podcast from KIRCHHOFF Automotive about the people who shape our company.

What inspired the creation of K>VOICES?

Natasha Philpott: The idea came from our Global Executive Vice President Communication & Marketing, Andreas Heine. About a year ago, he had the vision to create a platform that celebrates the people behind KIRCHHOFF Automotive – and he saw me as the host. I feel incredibly honored to take on this role. K>VOICES reflects the family values of our company and brings our global team closer together.

What can listeners expect when they tune in to K>VOICES?

Natasha Philpott: Surprises! I've always believed that everyone has a story to tell. You never know what fascinating life experiences or creative passions people have. Each episode is full of unexpected insights and inspiring moments.

Was there a story that particularly stuck with you?

Natasha Philpott: One story that really stayed with me was from our President & CEO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive North America, who shared his experience of helping to build an orphanage in Kenya. Hearing how deeply committed he is to improving the lives of disadvantaged people was incredibly moving.

How has your journalistic background shaped your interview style?

Natasha Philpott: Every interview starts with research. I want to understand who my guest is and what drives them. Before each recording, we hold a prep session to get familiar with one another. Unlike traditional interviews, podcasting is more relaxed and conversational – my goal is to create a space where guests feel comfortable and can truly be themselves.

What new perspectives have you gained through these conversations?

Natasha Philpott: These conversations have shown me that, although we come from different

parts of the world and diverse cultures, we are united by shared values – especially our commitment to our families and our company. This common ground is what makes KIRCHHOFF Automotive so special.

How can people listen to K>VOICES or get involved as a guest?

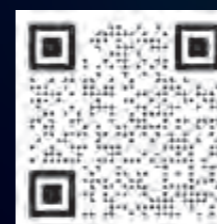
Natasha Philpott: You can listen to K>VOICES on all major podcast platforms like Apple and Spotify, and watch translated versions on our YouTube channel. If you'd like to be a guest, feel free to send me an email at natasha.philpott@kirchhoff-automotive.com.

What do you hope listeners take away from the episodes?

Natasha Philpott: I hope everyone gains a deeper understanding of the people and stories behind KIRCHHOFF Automotive – and maybe takes away a few insights or bits of inspiration they can apply to their own life or career.

Every guest on K>VOICES shares their dream car at the end. What's yours?

Natasha Philpott: Oh, that's a fun question! I love my pink Chevy Spark, but if I could choose a dream car, it would definitely be a pink VW Beetle convertible. It just matches my bubbly Barbie personality! ■



Whether you're part of the KIRCHHOFF Automotive family or simply curious about the people shaping the future of mobility – K>VOICES invites you to listen, connect, and be inspired. Just have a listen: <https://k-voices.buzzsprout.com/>.

AUTHOR: PROF. THOMAS F. KIRCHHOFF
CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KIRCHHOFF GROUP



Created Together: Art Connects

A new KIRCHHOFF Culture Life Project was launched in September. The tree sculptures required a lot of work in advance: planning and constructing the foundations, purchasing the right steel, laser cutting the leaves, attaching them with specially made springs, and, of course, the artistic design of the sculptures by our tried and tested team of artists, KraX from Frankfurt – pictured here with the organizer and cultural representative of the KIRCHHOFF Group, Prof. Thomas Kirchhoff (center).

In September, the team behind KIRCHHOFF Culture Life (KCL) had their hands full. Four major participatory events were scheduled in Esztergom/Hungary, Gniezno/Poland, Attendorn, and Craiova/Romania. The announcements initially raised questions – what was planned with 30 beer tables, white gloves, and employees along with their family members? Curiosity was high, and speculation ran wild.



In Craiova, Romania, another large puzzle painting was created – just like at other locations. Over 200 employees and family members painted the story of our Romanian plant, which is located directly on the grounds of the Ford Motor Company. Landmarks of the city, people, and machines adorn the colorful artwork, which now decorates one of the production halls.

As with all twelve puzzle paintings, three trees can be seen. These trees symbolically represent the forest city of Iserlohn (the company's origin in 1785) and the three brothers Arndt, Johannes, and Wolfgang Kirchhoff, owners of the KIRCHHOFF Group. The trees also stand for our initiative to plant 1,785 trees at each location – a project we continued this year in North America.



Attendorn/Germany: "We proudly present": The new stainless steel sculpture consisting of three trees standing at an angle of 120 degrees to each other.



Three Trees in Steel

Three trees also appear in our latest KCL project – this time on three large stainless steel panels, positioned at 120-degree angles to each other. Hundreds of employees enthusiastically contributed to the creation of the sculpture by painting the tree leaves.

"A fantastic community project. The idea that all employees and their families could take part in the design is wonderful and once again shows that community and family business are truly valued at KIRCHHOFF Automotive," says Sales Director Silvia Rauterkus.

"The monument of three trees is a beautiful symbol – it shows that each of us is part of something bigger. The Family Day reminded us how important relationships outside of work are", adds Plant Manager Maciej Brewka from Gniezno/Poland.

The over 3.20-meter-high steel sculptures are prominently displayed at the entrances of our sites, combining artistic expression with our values and the material we work with at the KIRCHHOFF Group. ■



Craiova, Romania: Everyone got ready for the big joint painting project.



Another large puzzle picture depicting the history of the plant in Craiova has been created.



Everyone at the Polish plant in Gniezno is full of anticipation.

A Generational Change with Vision

After 17 years at the helm of KIRCHHOFF Automotive, a defining leader is stepping down from the Executive Board – handing over to a successor who combines innovation with continuity.

AUTHOR: ANDREAS HEINE
GLOBAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
COMMUNICATION & MARKETING

Dr Heiko Engels – Continuity and Fresh Impulses

Effective October 1, 2025, Dr Heiko Engels has taken over the position of Global Chief Technology Officer on the Executive Board of KIRCHHOFF Automotive SE. His career is closely linked to the company: after training as a tool mechanic and studying mechanical engineering, he earned his doctorate and has been with the company since 2007. Positions such as Liaison Manager North America, Director Technology Development, and Executive Vice President Global Technical Development reflect his international experience and technical expertise. Since 2020, he has been Executive Vice President and Managing Director. Dr Heiko Engels particularly values the trusting cooperation, reliability, and future orientation of the family-owned company. For him, one thing is clear: "Despite all crises and uncertainty, I believe in the automobile – and nothing is as constant as change", says Dr Heiko Engels. "The past years in crisis mode have shown how adaptable the company is – and how much joy it brings to work together on the future."

Farewell to Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch – An Architect of Change

Effective December 31, 2025, Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch, Member of the Executive Board and Global CTO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive SE, will retire after 17 years. Since joining in 2008 as Managing Director of KIRCHHOFF Automotive Deutschland GmbH and Executive Vice President Sales and Technical Development of KIRCHHOFF Automotive GmbH, he has significantly shaped the company's development. Notably, the integration of the Van-Rob companies and the successful adaptation of organizational structures took place during his tenure. In 2013, he became Managing Director, in 2016 Global CTO – and from then on led the global Sales and Technical Development departments. His pioneering work in customer acquisition and in building a balanced customer portfolio contributed decisively to the company emerging stronger from the automotive industry's crises. In November 2023, he was appointed to the Executive Board of the newly founded KIRCHHOFF Automotive AG/SE. Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch enjoys the highest respect and recognition for his extraordinary commitment and unwavering loyalty. ■



On 1 October 2025, Dr Heiko Engels (left) took over the position of Global Chief Technology Officer (CTO) on the Executive Board of KIRCHHOFF Automotive SE. Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch, member of the Executive Board and Global CTO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive SE, is retiring after 17 years.

INTERVIEW: ANDREAS HEINE
GLOBAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNICATION & MARKETING

We've Done Our Homework

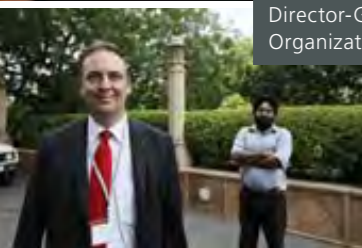
In a rapidly changing automotive industry, entrepreneurial foresight and strategic thinking are more important than ever. Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch has impressively demonstrated over the past 17 years how innovation, leadership strength, and forward-looking action can guide a company safely through challenging times.

It is particularly remarkable that, together with his dedicated team, he succeeded in setting the course for the sustainable success of KIRCHHOFF Automotive and continuously developing the company. In the following interview, Dr Gaitzsch shares insights into his achievements and his visions for the future. »

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch, member of the Executive Board and CTO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive, looks back on 17 successful years during which he was responsible for technical development and sales.



2010: On the way to India with Dr Karl-Ernst Brauner, then Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).



Talking to customers at IAA Mobility 2023.

"We are committed to excellence in technology, efficiency, and sustainability," emphasized Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch at the VIP Tech Walk at IZB 2024. Around 50 VW board members, including Oliver Blume (Chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen AG), were in attendance.



With the Chinese team at Auto Shanghai 2025.



During a guided tour of the IAA Mobility 2025 exhibition.

KIRCHHOFF AUTOMOTIVE



Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch particularly appreciated the very trusting cooperation at all levels within the company.

Andreas Heine: Thorsten, 17 years ago you moved from one family-run supplier to another. What motivated you back then to leave Karmann and join KIRCHHOFF Automotive?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: First of all, I thoroughly researched the company and its shareholder structure before the initial meeting and received exclusively positive feedback. Even back then, KIRCHHOFF Automotive – although significantly smaller and not yet globally active – was known in the automotive industry and appreciated as a supplier and partner by manufacturers. I was also attracted by the overarching responsibility of the position and the shareholders' ideas for further development. And last but not least, the introductory meetings took place in a very appreciative atmosphere and on equal footing – it just felt right.

Andreas Heine: With your previous professional experience and 17 years at KIRCHHOFF Automotive – what would you consider the greatest advantages of a family-run company, and where do you see possible disadvantages?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: The greatest advantages are certainly the short decision-making paths, flat hierarchies, and in our case, the very trusting cooperation across all levels of the company. Fortunately, we have maintained this despite strong growth. Another advantage is the long-term orientation of decisions. At KIRCHHOFF Automotive, decisions are not made for monthly results or quarterly figures – we think in years and decades, ultimately in generations.

That's why the company has been successful for 240 years.

Andreas Heine: One of the most complex tasks was the integration of Van Rob in North America, which gave KIRCHHOFF Automotive a strong presence in that market and nearly doubled its size. What were the biggest challenges during the acquisition, and how successful were we in overcoming them?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: The majority acquisition in 2011, and the full acquisition in 2016, indeed posed significant challenges for the company. Of course, systems had to be aligned, global guidelines and rules developed and coordinated, production standards unified, etc. However, the real challenge was integrating the right colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic into the right positions within the company. Mentalities, values, and behaviors differ greatly, and it takes a lot of sensitivity – and time – to implement that. I'm very glad that we've now succeeded in doing so with the current company structure and the right colleagues.

Andreas Heine: One of your greatest achievements is certainly that KIRCHHOFF Automotive now has a very balanced global customer portfolio. Why is that especially important in times of crisis?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: As important as it is to work long-term with strategic partners, it's equally important not to become too dependent. This applies not only to suppliers but also to

manufacturers. The current market environment is volatile and shaped by many different conditions, some of which are beyond the industry's control. As a result, the former reliability of production figures is no longer guaranteed. The broader a supplier is positioned, the lower the risk of failure. This applies not only to the customer portfolio but equally to dependence on regions, markets, and products.

Andreas Heine: How difficult was it to enforce within the company the decision not to accept large orders in order to avoid increasing dependence on individual customers?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: Of course, such decisions didn't always receive unanimous approval from colleagues. However, given that our decisions are based on the long-term development of KIRCHHOFF Automotive, they were necessary.

Andreas Heine: How do you see the future of KIRCHHOFF Automotive? What will be important for the company to continue growing and evolving – especially in light of the complex conditions due to industry transformation and current tariff uncertainties?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: All in all, the company is excellently positioned. KIRCHHOFF Automotive has done its homework, has a stable organization and

structure, is economically healthy and independent, and enjoys an excellent reputation. If the necessary political, economic, and global conditions now fall into place, I am absolutely optimistic about the future. We need clarity regarding the future of electromobility, electricity prices, global trade agreements, etc.

Andreas Heine: After 17 years, saying goodbye is certainly not easy. What are your plans for life after work? In Lorient's film "Pappa Ante Portas," we see that retirement for executives can also pose challenges for their private environment.

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: I hope I won't make the same mistakes as Vicco von Bülow in his comedy. But transitioning to private life certainly presents new challenges for everyone involved. However, I believe I've spent enough time thinking about the "after" and will fill it with vacations, sports, and the occasional – even if only part-time – professional activity.

Andreas Heine: Thank you for the conversation. I wish you all the best for your new chapter in life. ■

Awarded for True Partnership

As one of 20 outstanding global suppliers – out of several thousand in total – KIRCHHOFF Automotive was honored by Stellantis at the “Supplier of the Year” ceremony in Paris on October 28. The automaker, which includes iconic brands such as Peugeot, Citroën, Fiat, Chrysler, Dodge Ram, and Jeep, recognized the remarkable performance, reliability, and commitment of its suppliers to operational excellence.

AUTHOR: SILVIA RAUTERKUS
DIRECTOR SALES



KIRCHHOFF Automotive is one of 20 outstanding global suppliers recognised by Stellantis for the highest standards in quality, delivery and collaboration.



“At KIRCHHOFF Automotive, product development and industrialisation processes run in parallel – and the connecting element is project management. For over 25 years, we have demonstrated our excellence in this discipline for Stellantis in the construction of new plants. That is why I am delighted for all KIRCHHOFF Automotive employees about this award.”

J. Wolfgang Kirchoff

“With a clear sense of urgency, commitment and a problem-solving mindset, KIRCHHOFF Automotive has shown Stellantis what true partnership means.”

Theresa Thiele, Senior Vice President Global Purchasing Programs Stellantis, in her speech at the presentation of the award to J. Wolfgang Kirchoff, Chairman of the Board and CEO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive.



Chief Purchasing Officer Monica Genovese hosted the ceremony, now in its fifth edition, accompanied by Stellantis’ Executive Leadership Team. More than 200 supplier partners from around the world came together to honor those who embody the highest standards in quality, delivery, and collaboration.

KIRCHHOFF Automotive was specifically recognized in the “Program Management” category.

To support the Jeep brand’s KM program, KIRCHHOFF Automotive launched several global initiatives for Stellantis in 2024, including the construction of a new facility at its Puebla, Mexico plant. However, the decisive contribution was the specific support during the launch of the Smart Car. KIRCHHOFF Automotive stepped in for another supplier and delivered technical solutions and prototypes at short notice and with remarkable speed, helping to keep the program on track.

In his speech, Stellantis CEO Antonio Filosa emphasized the strategic importance of supplier partnerships: “Today’s event was more than a recognition – it reflects a realignment that meets the evolving needs of our customers and our industry,” he said. “Together with our suppliers and partners, we are strengthening the foundation for innovation, sustainability, and operational excellence. This collaboration is essential as we navigate a rapidly changing market and prepare for the future of mobility.” ■

The nominees and winners were selected by a global, cross-functional team at Stellantis. Among other things, performance, innovative ability, alignment with Stellantis values and shared objectives were evaluated.

AUTHOR: MICHAEL RANK
GLOBAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT PROCUREMENT

There Will Hardly Be Any Winners

The departure from free global trade burdens global supply chains and end consumers alike, without anyone being able to gain lasting advantages from it. An additional burden and challenge for KIRCHHOFF Automotive's procurement and manufacturing strategies.

Tariffs are the oldest and simplest instrument of trade policy. Primarily, they serve as a fiscal revenue source, but also as a means to control trade flows, market structures, and competitive conditions. Governments use trade restrictions to protect jobs, promote strategic industries, safeguard national security, and ensure economic stability. Tariffs strengthen negotiating power, influence market balance, and can exert diplomatic pressure. Often, the goal is to strike a balance between revenue generation, market regulation,

protectionism, and foreign policy objectives – always in service of the economic interests of the state or an economic area.

Trade requires rules. The modern customs system and regulatory framework emerged with increasing internationalization after World War II. Until 1994, the rules were defined in GATT agreements, later in the WTO, covering a large portion of global trade and recognized by 166 member states.

The years of **liberalization and globalization** of world trade, global division of labor, and value chains were marked by high economic growth, increasing trade activity, and technological progress. This was further intensified by the economic opening of Eastern Europe and China as an export nation.

With the **announcement** on Liberation Day of **extensive tariffs** against trade partners, the United States – the largest economy and one of the world's biggest trading nations – is now turning away from free global trade.

In the long term, the effects of moving away from a more liberal trade policy on the global economy and inflation are to be assessed as predominantly negative. In the short term, the measures lead to disruptions in supply chains, and the additional tariffs on imports into the United States result in significantly higher costs and rising price levels. ▶



The **effects on our supply chains** are already clearly noticeable. Tariffs influence supply chains on multiple levels. In addition to immediate cost increases, they lead to changes in value chains and procurement strategies. Tariffs have a particularly strong impact on the latter, as procurement markets whose products are subject to tariffs lose competitiveness immediately and significantly. Since KIRCHHOFF Automotive cannot always switch to alternative procurement markets, the tariff duties inevitably increase our input costs for imported primary intermediate products – and thus product costs and ultimately consumer prices. For KIRCHHOFF Automotive’s U.S. plants alone, this results in an additional financial burden of several million U.S. dollars per year. Moreover, the sudden announcements and withdrawals of tariffs make it difficult for us to provide long-term and reliable forecasts regarding the tariff burden KIRCHHOFF Automotive will have to bear. Tariff risks create uncertainty and strain future planning.

with trade policy instruments. Not to be overlooked is the **influence of tariffs on investment decisions and location strategies**. The significantly increasing political uncertainty surrounding various trade agreements and tariffs greatly raises investment risk and is already leading to delays in investment decisions and to re- or restructuring.

Undoubtedly, the changed trade policy and imposed tariffs affect pricing and demand behavior. When tariffs increase end consumer prices, demand in affected segments declines, and economic performance and growth weaken.

Attempts to increase value creation within one’s own economic area or country through **protectionist trade policies** and associated de-globalization tendencies will not be successful in the long term.

On the contrary, a disruptive and protectionist trade policy will increasingly lead to substitution or relocation effects in globally interconnected, predominantly homogeneous consumer or goods markets. Competitors from other regions will gain ground.

Nevertheless, the departure from a stable, rules-based trade system currently forces us to readjust and rethink procurement and production strategies. However, by exiting an orderly, rules-based trade policy, we risk entering a situation in which there will likely be only losers. ■

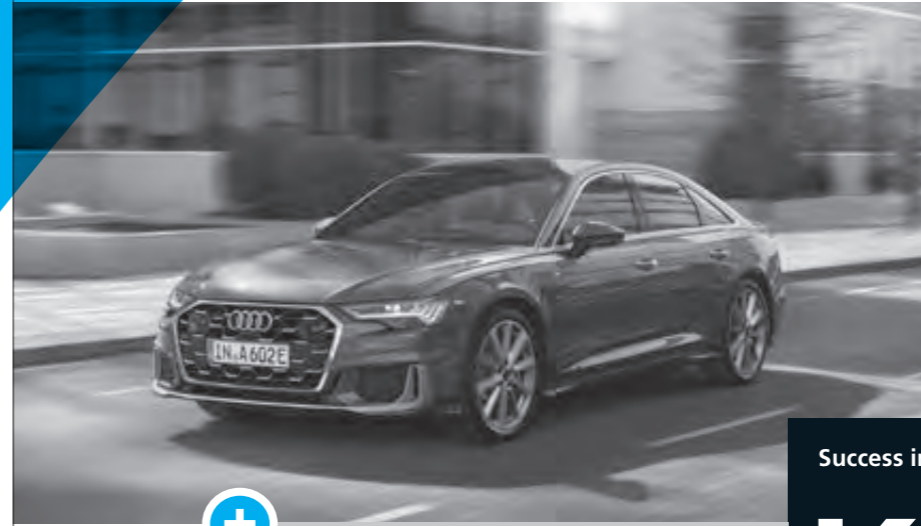
For these reasons, KIRCHHOFF Automotive is examining **alternative procurement markets or regions** with lower tariffs, fewer trade barriers, and overall more reliable, liberal trade policies. This leads to a significantly more tariff-oriented diversification of procurement sources to reduce or completely avoid tariff risks. The process requires time, investment in new supplier relationships and production capacities. It demands cross-functional collaboration, understanding, and flexibility throughout the entire supply chain to respond quickly and appropriately to changes in trade policy and its instruments.

For this purpose, KIRCHHOFF Automotive has established a working group that aligns our production network and supply chains as closely as possible

AUTHORS: SABINE BOEHLE, COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER
EVA RADEMACHER, COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING SPECIALIST

New Products on the Road

KIRCHHOFF Automotive demonstrates its global strength with new product solutions for leading automobile manufacturers. The focus is on strategic successes as a global supplier for the mounting bracket of the Audi A6 e-tron, a new front wall concept for the BMW iX3 of the "New Class", functional components for the Stellantis CMP platform, as well as safety-optimized parts for the new VW T-Roc. Production takes place internationally – from Poland to China to Portugal – and underscores the company's expertise in lightweight construction and platform diversity.



Audi A6 e-tron, Audi A6L e-tron: Mounting Bracket

Technologies

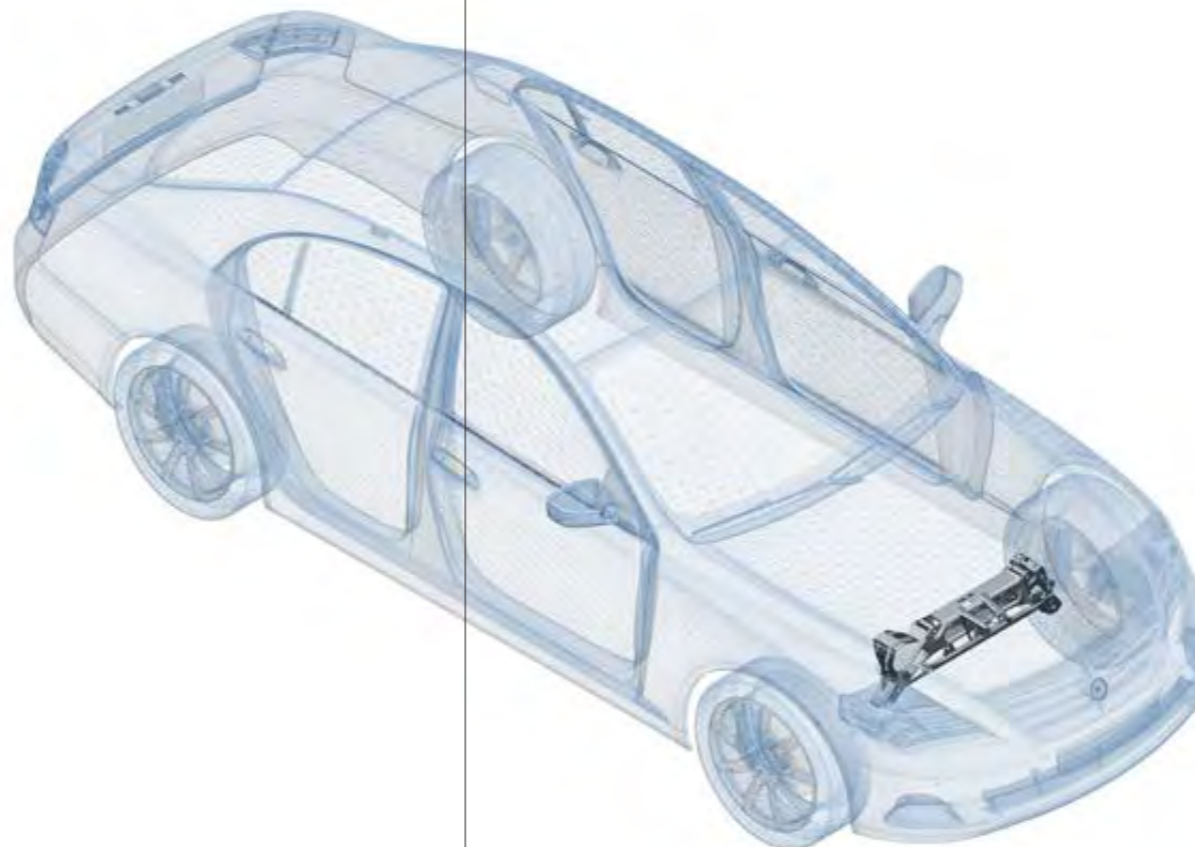
Forming, MAG welding, pickling, e-coating

Production Plants

Gliwice/Polen, Shenyang/China

Customer/Model

Audi A6 e-tron, Audi A6L e-tron



Success in the Chinese Market

KIRCHHOFF Automotive has established itself as a global supplier for mounting brackets of the electric **Audi A6 e-tron**, achieving a strategic success in the Chinese market. The company produces the innovative chassis component at two locations: in Gliwice/Poland, for the European Audi A6 e-tron, which is manufactured in Ingolstadt/Germany, and in Shenyang/China for the Chinese long version A6L e-tron.

The A6L e-tron, based on the Premium Platform Electric (PPE), offers significantly more rear space – an important feature for the Chinese market. The model also has a larger battery, enabling a range of up to 770 kilometers. The A6L e-tron is produced exclusively at the German-Chinese joint venture FAW NEVCo (New Energy Vehicle Company) in Changchun/China for the Chinese market. Particularly noteworthy: NEVCo awards the China volume separately, and KIRCHHOFF Automotive was able to prevail against local Chinese competitors.

The mounting bracket is a highly specialized chassis component used exclusively in battery-electric vehicles and serves to accommodate aggregates and engines.



BMW iX3: Front End

Technologies

Forming, spot and projection welding, e-coating

Production Plants

Mielec, Gliwice/Polen; Shenyang/China; Querétaro, San José Iturbide/Mexiko

Customer/Model

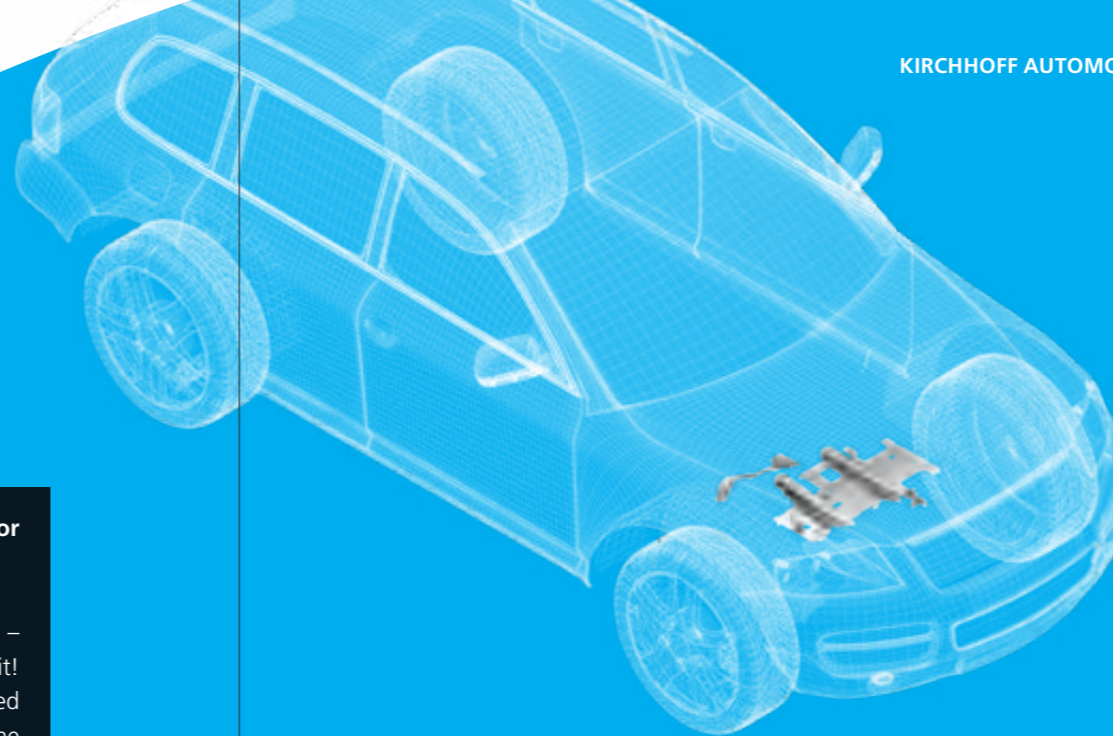
BMW iX3

“New Class” – New Front End Concept for the BMW iX3

Premiere of the “New Class” – KIRCHHOFF Automotive is part of it! In September 2025, BMW celebrated the world premiere of the iX3 at the IAA Mobility in Munich, the first production vehicle of the purely electric platform. BMW impresses with a completely new design concept for this model. We supply the front wall.

With a reduced “kidney” – the characteristically shaped BMW grille – in the retro design of the 1960s, BMW sets new accents and gives the electric SUV a striking, modern character.

Thanks to the new mounting concept of the front end, our components are partially installed during assembly, but also directly in the body-in-white. Particularly challenging was the implementation of the complex drawing area of the upper connection. We produce this on our transfer presses in the plants in Poland, Mexico and China.



**Smart Car BEV: Cable Mount
eCMP BEV: Charger Bracket**

Technologies

Cable Mount: Forming, projection welding, e-coating

Charger Bracket: Forming, projection welding, MAG welding, surface coating, manual assembly

Production Plants

Cable Mount: Pitești/Romania

Charger Bracket: Ovar/Portugal

Customer/Model

Stellantis Smart Car, eCMP BEV

Small Parts with Important Functions

KIRCHHOFF Automotive supplies several components for the Common Modular Platform (CMP) from Stellantis. Since 2024, the “Smart Car” platform has been added – a cost-effective multi-energy platform that serves as the basis for a range of entry-level vehicles. It enables Stellantis to build a variety of budget-conscious models from brands such as Citroën and Fiat. Our contribution to the platform includes, among other things, three different cable mounting sets, specially developed for the 200-km battery version.

Production of these cable mounting sets takes place at our plant in Pitești/Romania. From there, we supply customer plants in Trnava/Slovakia and Kragujevac/Serbia. A mounting bracket for a cable set organizes charging cables for electric cars by suspending and protecting them from contamination. Additionally, our plant in Portugal manufactures the bracket for chargers, which secures the charger and associated cables to the vehicle or charging station. This bracket is used in all battery-powered vehicles of the CMP platform and reaches more than ten different plants across Europe.

The CMP platform from Stellantis, introduced in 2018, has offered customers seven additional models with all types of drivetrains on a cost-effective basis since the end of 2024 with the “Smart Car” extension.





VW T-Roc: Cross member interior floor and water tank

Technologies

Forming, spot and projection welding, laser welding, e-coating, assembly of plug-in seal, application of foam seals

Production Plant

Ovar/Portugal

Customer/Model

Volkswagen T-Roc

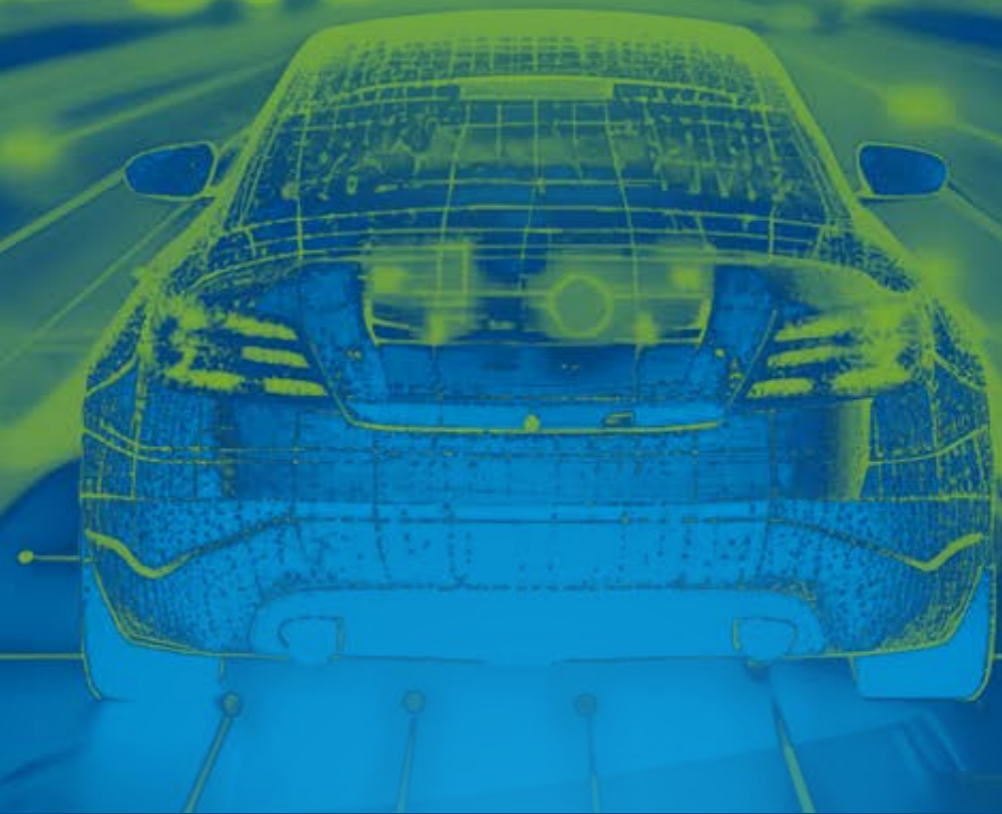
"Rocks! The New T-Roc"

With this claim, VW celebrated the world premiere of the new edition of the T-Roc – one of the best-selling SUVs in Europe – at the IAA Mobility in Munich in September 2025. Matching the new series color in bright yellow, the new T-Roc continues to be built in central Portugal at the Volkswagen plant in Palmela. KIRCHHOFF Automotive "rocks" along and contributes important components from its plant in Ovar/Portugal.

The previously supplied welded assembly cross member tank floor has been optimized with regard to new safety requirements in the area of Isofix mounts for securing child seats in the car. Furthermore, the component for the new T-Roc has been adapted to the changed installation space requirements of various performance variants and will therefore be delivered in two versions in the future.

The water interior front wall, made of sheet metal only 0.6 millimeters thick, highlights KIRCHHOFF Automotive's expertise in forming demanding lightweight products. With manual and automated assembly of sealing elements and final corrosion protection using e-coating surface treatment, our plant in Ovar builds on long-standing experience in this area from its own and other KIRCHHOFF Automotive plants and has successfully implemented this in series production.

Engineered for your Needs



Mobility is a central element of modern life. But how can we make mobility more efficient, sustainable, and future-ready? Intelligent design, innovative lightweight construction, and responsible material choices can play a decisive role in redefining mobility – ENGINEERED FOR YOUR NEEDS.

AUTHOR: PROF. CHRISTOPH WAGENER
VICE PRESIDENT RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Mobility Today – A Basic Human Need in Motion

Mobility today is much more than just transportation – it is part of our lives, our economy, and our society. The demand is constantly increasing: people commute to work, visit family, and run errands. While cars are often indispensable in rural areas, cities rely on flexible, multimodal transport concepts. Mobility should be fast, affordable, sustainable, and intelligent.

Mobility in Transition – Between Innovation and Responsibility

Digitalization, climate protection, and technological innovations are changing our mobility behavior. Electromobility, autonomous driving, and sharing models are just a few examples. At the same time, awareness of ecological responsibility is growing. Expanding public transport, promoting cycling, and using renewable energy are key components of sustainable mobility solutions.

Sustainability Through Intelligent Design

In the context of climate protection, lightweight construction plays a central role in motor vehicles. It not only contributes to reducing emissions during use but also helps conserve resources throughout the entire lifecycle of a vehicle. In electrically powered vehicles, however, mass has a significantly lower impact on energy consumption and thus on CO₂ emissions during the usage phase than in vehicles with combustion engines. This is not, as often assumed, due to stronger recuperation of electric drives, but rather to their significantly better efficiency.

Less material primarily means lower energy consumption in production and simpler recycling processes. Combined with electric drives and renewable energy, this creates a holistic sustainable mobility concept. That's why we continue to work intensively on lightweight solutions that offer excellent properties despite reduced mass.

Hybrid Lightweight Construction – The Material Mix Makes the Difference

The requirements for modern vehicle bodies are complex. They need to be lightweight, safe, efficient and sustainable. No single material can meet all these requirements on its own – which is why we rely on hybrid lightweight construction. It is crucial to select the right material for the respective requirements. Furthermore, hybrid lightweight construction is a forward-looking approach that involves the targeted combination of different materials. This combination presents a number of technical challenges. For example, different mechanical properties and thermal expansion coefficients require special joining technologies such as bonding, riveting, clinching, or screwing. In particular, when combining steel and aluminum, galvanic corrosion must be avoided. Separating and recycling material composites is also sometimes complex and requires new recycling strategies.

Our goal: To develop lightweight solutions with excellent properties – for sustainable mobility of tomorrow. »

THE IAA INNOVATION TALK

with Vice President Research & Product Development Prof Christoph Wagener at the IAA Mobility 2025

IAA Innovation Talk Part 1 on the topic of instrument panel beams in shell, hybrid and aluminum profile design.

IAA Innovation Talk Part 2 on the topic of special features in crash management systems.

IAA Innovation Talk Part 3 on the topic of B-pillars.



Scan the QR code for more information in the video:



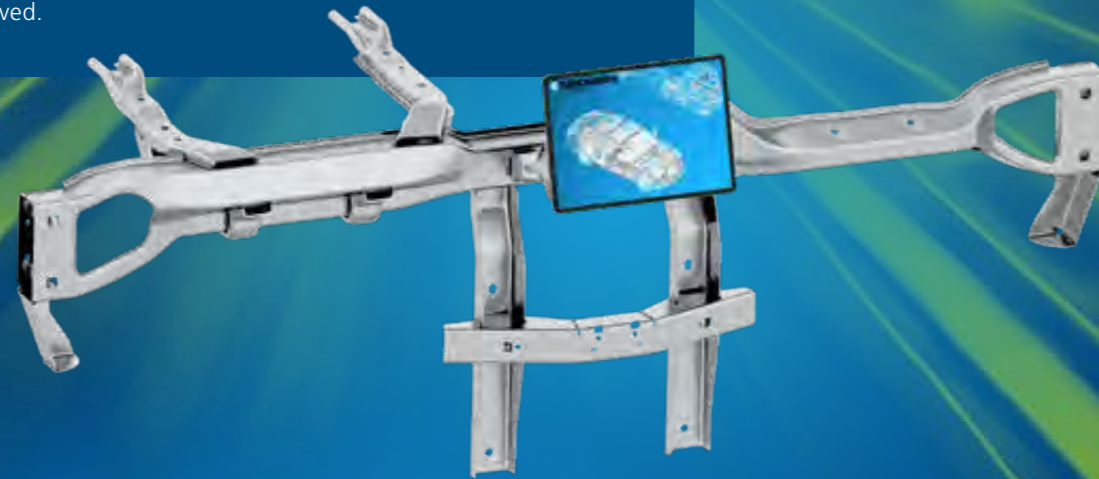
ENGINEERED FOR YOUR NEEDS

Product design tailored to requirements

In addition to installation space requirements and mechanical properties, the key requirements for body-in-white modules and assembly components are lightweight construction, cost efficiency and sustainability. The following examples show possible solutions with different weightings in terms of these aspects, using different materials and combinations thereof.

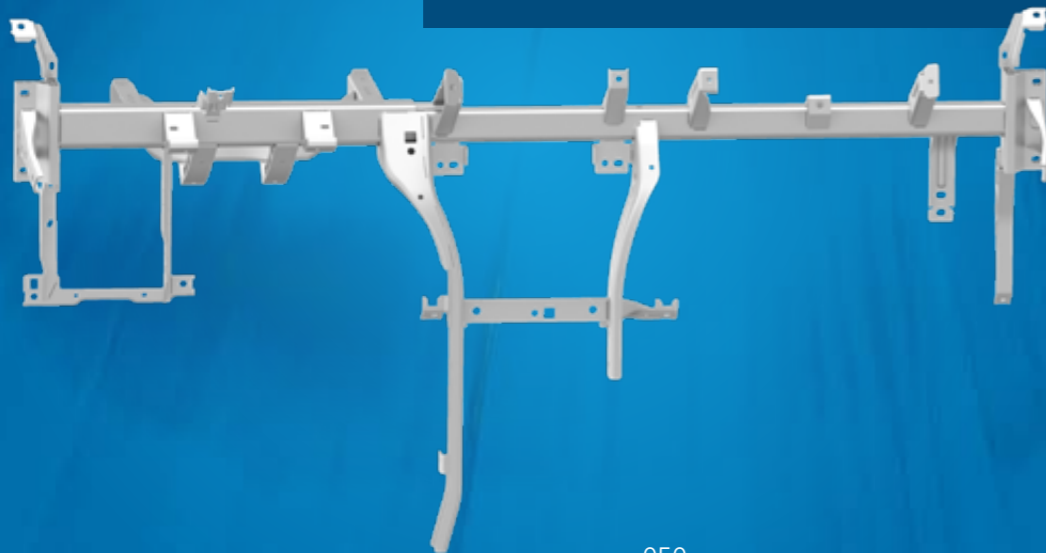
Instrument panel beam in shell design

A monolithic design in steel is the most cost-effective solution for instrument panel beams. The image shows a concept in which the cross member is designed as a shell. Local reinforcements are used to achieve the required mechanical properties. This concept is particularly suitable for complex installation spaces in vehicles that are produced in large volumes. By integrating functions into the open shell and reducing the number of individual parts and weld seams, cost savings can be achieved.



Instrument panel beam in aluminum profile design

Instrument panel beam concepts in aluminum enable maximum lightweight construction while meeting all relevant requirements. Compared to steel designs, depending on the application, approximately 25 to 40% of mass can be saved – however, at increased cost.



050

Instrument panel beam in hybrid design

The hybrid design expands the portfolio of pure steel and aluminum instrument panel beam concepts. The core element is the press-fitting of the two tubes that form the cross member. This allows for a lightweight solution to be realized at moderate cost – compared to the pure steel solution.



Form-fit and force-fit connection of sheet steel and die-cast aluminum

The integration of aluminum die-cast components into sheet metal structures is playing an increasingly important role in the context of lightweight body construction efforts. If the sheets are made of aluminum, they can be joined to the cast part using MIG welding through casting process optimizations – as shown by internal studies. Steel sheets, on the other hand, can be permanently joined to aluminum die-cast components, for example, by overcasting. By designing undercuts, a mechanical interlock can be created, resulting in a form-fit and force-fit connection between the materials.



**MAKING.
MOBILITY.
SAFE.**

051



"This was an outstanding IAA!"

summarized Chairman of the Board and CEO J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff after KIRCHHOFF Automotive's successful appearance at the IAA Mobility in September 2025. Under the motto 'ENGINEERED FOR YOUR NEEDS,' KIRCHHOFF Automotive presented tailor-made body solutions at the world's largest mobility event, which are precisely tailored to the individual requirements of customers.

AUTHOR: SABINE BOEHLE
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER

As part of the IAA Mobility opening tour, J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff, Chairman of the Board and CEO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive, welcomes Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz to the KIRCHHOFF Automotive stand. Also present were (from left to right): Markus Söder (Minister-President of Bavaria), Katherina Reiche (Federal Minister for Economic Affairs), Friederike Kirchhoff, J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff (CEO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive), Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz, VDA President Hildegard Müller, Arndt G. Kirchhoff (Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the KIRCHHOFF Group), Dr Johannes F. Kirchhoff (CEO of KIRCHHOFF Ecotec), Winfried Kretschmann (Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg) and Federal Transport Minister Patrick Schnieder.

It became clear on the very first day that IAA Mobility in Munich is the central meeting place for innovations and future technologies in the automotive industry. J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff was impressed: "German manufacturers are providing strong impetus with new technologies and models – an exciting start to a trade fair full of ideas for the future."

The IAA Mobility also provided the perfect stage for us. Our stand became a place for inspiring discussions – with customers, partners and industry experts from all over the world. "The great interest in our latest innovations, which make vehicles lighter, safer and more sustainable, proves once again how relevant our expertise is for the mobility of the future," emphasizes Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch, CTO KIRCHHOFF Automotive. "Numerous board members from our major customers visited us at the trade fair this time, which we were very pleased about." Our product development is consistently geared towards our customers' objectives in terms of structural behavior, lightweight construction and cost efficiency. Whether crash-safe, material-optimized or CO₂-reduced – at IAA Mobility, we presented the right technology with optimally used materials for every technical and economic challenge. ▶

MAKING. MOBILITY. SAFE.



01

01 Under the trade fair motto 'Engineered for your needs', KIRCHHOFF Automotive presented innovative body solutions tailored to the individual requirements of its customers.

Our passion for innovation also inspired the trainees during their visit to the exhibition stand. They spontaneously organized live coverage of their tour of the stand on Instagram – a real highlight!

Whether it was inspiring customer discussions, a visit from Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz or the many other exciting encounters at the KIRCHHOFF Automotive stand – this year's IAA Mobility was more than just a trade fair: it was a stage for the mobility of tomorrow – with groundbreaking innovations, fascinating vehicles and a lively open space throughout the city.

06 Arndt G. Kirchhoff welcomes Francisco N. Gonzales Diaz, President of the Mexican Automotive Parts Association.
07 Our trainees had a lot of fun on their two-day trip to Munich. A particular highlight was the visit to IAA Mobility, which represents an important milestone in their training.

To everyone who visited us, exchanged ideas or simply stopped by: Thank you for making this IAA Mobility so unforgettable. ■



04



02

02 Dr Gunnar Güthenke, second from left (Vice President Procurement & Supplier Quality Mercedes-Benz Cars) in conversation with Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch (right), Christian Weiß (second from right) and J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff (left). 03 During a tour of our exhibition stand, Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch explained the special features of the various crash management systems to Dr Nicolai Martin (right in the picture), Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, Purchasing and Supplier Network. 05 Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch in conversation with Monica Genovese, Head of Purchasing at Stellantis Group.



03



05

04 Many representatives from politics and associations visited us during the VDA VIP tours. Pictured here on the left is Armand Zorn (member of the German Bundestag and deputy chairman of the SPD parliamentary group) with Arndt G. Kirchhoff.



06



07

Three product areas, one philosophy: tailor-made safety

- 1. Instrument panel carriers:** From proven steel sheet constructions to lightweight aluminium designs and innovative hybrid constructions (tube-in-tube) – each variant is precisely tailored to the vehicle architecture and safety requirements of the respective customer.
- 2. Crash management systems** are individually tailored to crash requirements and design specifications, whether cold-formed steel, partially press-hardened components or aluminium constructions.
- 3. Body-in-white structural parts** made of high-strength special steels for maximum safety. Together with leading steel producers, we validate the use of CO₂-reduced steels in order to sustainably improve the carbon footprint of our products.

Watch our after movie and relive the best moments with us!



INTERVIEW: ANDREAS HEINE
GLOBAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNICATION & MARKETING

Milestone: First Orders for New Plants of Chinese OEMs in Europe

We have acquired two new Chinese customers whose European production facilities are supplied from our plants in Portugal and Hungary.

KIRCHHOFF Automotive is entering a new era with the first series production orders from leading Chinese automotive manufacturers. Executive Board Member Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch speaks in an interview about the challenges, opportunities, and the strategic significance of this success for the company.

With the acquisition of the first major orders from renowned Chinese OEMs for two European plants, KIRCHHOFF Automotive marks an important milestone. Production includes 26 body components for a fully electric vehicle, manufactured at the Hungarian plant in Esztergom, as well as the production of an instrument panel carrier for another Chinese manufacturer in Portugal

Andreas Heine: Thorsten, what does this project launch mean for KIRCHHOFF Automotive, and how would you assess its strategic relevance?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: In the coming years, the European automotive market is expected to stagnate rather than grow. Chinese manufacturers will aim to capture a significant share of this limited market. To achieve this, they are investing heavily in building dealer networks, forming alliances, and supporting promotional activities at trade fairs and major events. For KIRCHHOFF Automotive's continued growth in Europe, it is therefore of strategic importance to secure these initial inquiries now.

Andreas Heine: From your perspective, what were the key factors in gaining the trust of the Chinese OEMs?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: KIRCHHOFF Automotive has the major advantage of having operated plants in China for two decades. Successfully handling orders for both international and domestic manufacturers in China has built trust, which helped us in these recent acquisitions. KIRCHHOFF Automotive is now a recognized brand in China and valued as a global production partner. ▶



At Auto Shanghai 2025, Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch presented innovative body solutions and new products.



"The successful completion of orders for international and domestic manufacturers in China has built trust. KIRCHHOFF Automotive is now also well known as a brand in China and valued as a global production partner," reports Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch.

Andreas Heine: Chinese manufacturers are said to move very quickly when it comes to project execution. Is that true, and can we keep up?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: Chinese manufacturers are indeed very demanding. It starts with the timeline for submitting offers, continues through a short product development process to SOP (Start of Production), and usually ends with a significantly shorter production cycle than what we see with our established customers. We adapt to that. Simultaneous work and the involvement of our colleagues around the globe allow us to manage projects more or less 24/7. Otherwise, the given conditions would be impossible to meet.

Andreas Heine: With Lulu Junge as our new Chinese-speaking Sales Manager, we've strengthened the interface with our Chinese customers. How important is this step for future collaboration?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: I'm very pleased that we were able to bring Lulu on board at KIRCHHOFF Automotive. She combines intercultural knowledge, initial sales experience, and of course, perfect language skills. Having grown up and been educated in both countries – Germany and China – Lulu is the ideal link between our customer teams in China and our central functions. Especially for supporting Chinese customers in Europe, this setup is ideal.

How do you see the future development of partnerships with Chinese OEMs in the European market?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: I expect that around half a dozen Chinese manufacturers will establish a lasting presence in Europe and gain significant market share. For us, the goal is to become a reliable, strategic partner to these customers.

Andreas Heine: Finally, what are your key lessons learned from this project launch for acquiring new customers at KIRCHHOFF Automotive?

Dr Thorsten Gaitzsch: A high level of independence from regions, products, and customers is one of KIRCHHOFF Automotive's strengths. That also means we must continuously develop our customer portfolio. With the first European orders from Chinese manufacturers, we've done an excellent job. We need to build on that – and not just with more manufacturers from China. The automotive market will continue to evolve in the coming years, and we would be wise to support new players on their journey. ■



Building bridges between cultures

Lulu Junge grew up in Germany and China and experienced early on how enriching cooperation between different cultures can be. 'This understanding continues to shape me today,' she emphasises. After completing her master's degree in political science and working in international sales, she has now joined the KIRCHHOFF Automotive team. In her role as Sales Manager, she contributes her intercultural experience and her enthusiasm for exchange between Germany and China. She supports Chinese OEMs and, together with the international teams, successfully implements projects across national and cultural boundaries. What connects both cultures? For Lulu Junge, it is above all respect, reliability and trust. Europe and China are growing ever closer – and she is delighted to be actively shaping this journey.



Achieving Greatness Together: Honoring Our Suppliers of the Year

AUTHOR: PATRICK TAUTZ
PROCUREMENT MANAGER BOUGHT IN PARTS

This year's Supplier of the Year event took place in Kraków, Poland, set against the historic backdrop of one of Central Europe's most beautiful cities. The event once again honored the outstanding achievements of selected suppliers and emphasized the importance of strong partnerships in a changing industry.

Warm welcome and clear messages

Klaus Lawory, Vice President Procurement, emphasized the importance of trusting collaboration: "Without you as a partner, we would not be so successful." He highlighted that long-term success is only possible through close, reliable partnerships. Host Pawel Cygan, Managing Director of KIRCHHOFF Automotive in Poland, said: "I am proud to welcome you as host in Kraków – one year after the 25th anniversary of our plant in Mielec." He referred to the continuous growth of the Polish sites and the increasing importance of the region for the company's global production network.

Partnership as the key to success

Dr Jochen Luft, Member of the Executive Board & COO, emphasized in his speech the relevance of partnerships in times of global challenges: "Partnerships are more important than ever." In a special gesture of appreciation, he addressed his congratulations to the international suppliers in Spanish, German, and Czech, quoting Mother Teresa: "We can do things you cannot, you can do things we cannot; together we can achieve great things."

Honoring the best suppliers of 2025

Three companies were honored this year for their outstanding performance for our European plants:

- Flachstahl Werl (Germany) for excellent raw material deliveries
- Exlabesa (Spain) for outstanding performance in aluminum extrusion parts
- DEL (Czech Republic) for top-level collaboration in industrial automation and welding systems

All three companies accepted the award with pride and expressed their gratitude for the trust placed in them. In their speeches, they emphasized their ambition to once again be among KIRCHHOFF Automotive's top partners in the coming years.



The city of Kraków provided the perfect setting for this year's Supplier of the Year event.

An evening of appreciation and outlook

The Supplier of the Year Event 2025 was not only a platform for recognition, but also a strong signal for the future: KIRCHHOFF Automotive continues to rely on close cooperation, mutual trust, and joint innovation – across national borders. ■



Click here for the video:

Brief profile of the three award-winning suppliers:

Flachstahl Werl GmbH & Co. KG from Germany is one of the largest steel service centres in Germany and Central Europe and is involved in longitudinal and cross-cutting as well as the distribution of flat steel for the automotive industry. The family-owned company was founded in 1972 and employs 130 people. Its headquarters are in Werl, North Rhine-Westphalia.

Exlabesa Extrusion Padron S.L from Spain was founded in 1966. The family-owned company, headquartered in Padrón in Galicia, employs 2,000 people and manufactures customised and standardised aluminium profile products for the automotive industry, among others.

The Czech company **DEL a.s.** was founded in 1995 and now employs 300 people. Its headquarters are in Žďár nad Sázavou. The company, which operates in the industrial automation sector, specialises in automated production lines and robotics solutions. KIRCHHOFF Automotive and DEL a.s. have been working together since 2006 and have successfully implemented more than 100 projects.

¡Bienvenidos!



KIRCHHOFF Automotive celebrates 25 years of production in Querétaro and sets a strong signal for further growth in Mexico with the opening of a new 15,000 m² plant in San José Iturbide.

Since it began operations in 1999/2000, the plant in Querétaro, Mexico, has played an important role in our growth in North America and has become a cornerstone of our activities in the region. Today, the plant employs more than 650 people and covers an area of 34,000 square metres. Our presence in Mexico began in 1997 with our first plant in Puebla. This was followed by expansions in Querétaro (1999/2000), a just-in-time plant in Puebla (2008) and Hermosillo (2009, closed in 2020). A second plant in Puebla was opened in spring 2024, and now the latest KIRCHHOFF Automotive plant in Mexico has been opened in San José Iturbide.

**AUTHORS: FRANK THEILE, PLANT MANAGER SAN JOSÉ ITURBIDE
RAMON RAMIREZ, COMMUNICATION & MARKETING**

A reason to celebrate: 25 years of production in Querétaro and the opening of the fourth plant in Mexico in San José Iturbide.

Only eleven months after purchasing the property, the first machines and equipment were already installed in the new 15,000 m² plant in San José Iturbide. The plant has a state-of-the-art KTL system to support new customer projects and sustainable production. An innovative rinsing process and a modern evaporator system significantly reduce water consumption – while maintaining the highest quality standards. Efficient wastewater treatment also contributes to environmental protection.

The opening of the new plant is an important step in expanding capacity and reaffirms our long-term commitment to growth in the region. “Here we find excellently trained specialists, engineers, and an infrastructure in which technology and science complement each other ideally. The new plant is a clear commitment to Mexico and our employees,” emphasizes J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff, Chairman of the Board and CEO of KIRCHHOFF Automotive.

Mexico continues to be one of the most important locations for KIRCHHOFF Automotive worldwide. The plants in Querétaro and San José Iturbide stand for the performance of our teams, the trust of our customers, and the opportunities for further growth.

“The 25th anniversary and the opening of our fourth plant show the strong commitment of the Kirchhoff family to Mexico as a production location. It is a clear sign of trust in our team,” says Frank Theile, Plant Manager in San José Iturbide.

The celebrations in Querétaro made it clear: It takes more than teamwork to overcome challenges – namely the transfer of knowledge, lived values, and a deep commitment to professionalism, dedication, and a strong family spirit. These pillars support the success of our Mexican locations. ■



Above (left): Factory tour of the new halls in San José Iturbide.

Above (right): J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff (right) during his speech marking 25 years of production in Querétaro and the opening of the new KIRCHHOFF Automotive plant in San José Iturbide, Mexico.

Below: In addition to optimized rinsing, the e-coating plant in San José Iturbide is equipped with a state-of-the-art evaporator system that treats even heavily contaminated wastewater from the degreasing process. Efficient wastewater treatment also contributes to environmental protection.

AUTHORS: ANNA SZKLARZ, GLOBAL DIRECTOR CSR & SUSTAINABILITY
KATARZYNA WŁODARCZYK, CSR & SUSTAINABILITY ASSISTANT

Award for Sustainable Solutions and Energy Efficiency



Exchanging experiences and making new contacts: The international meeting of Young Energy project winners took place in Berlin in June 2025, bringing together 27 winning teams from 10 European countries.

Last year, our Polish plants achieved first place in the renowned 'Young Energy Europe Poland' project, which is organized by the German-Polish Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK). This competition is part of 'Young Energy Europe' project, which is aimed at companies across Europe and promotes innovative solutions for sustainable development and energy efficiency.

The project we presented focused on reducing the CO₂ footprint by lowering electricity and natural gas consumption in the cooling system of the hot forming line at our plant in Gliwice, Poland. This was achieved through:

- Complete or partial replacement of cooling units (chillers) with fan coolers, including water spray coolers (adiabatic cooling)
- Use of low-temperature waste heat from the press water cooling system for partial heating of the production and storage hall.

With the help of these optimizations, annual gas and electricity consumption at the Gliwice plant was reduced by 5 and 3 percent respectively, and CO₂ emissions were reduced by 4 percent in Scope 1 and by 3 percent in Scope 2.



Optimizations to the hot forming line have reduced annual gas and electricity consumption at the Gliwice plant in Poland by up to 5 percent.

Young Energy Europe is an international training programme held in 10 European countries. Its aim is to support the energy transition by developing green skills among employees of companies and institutions. Polish edition is organized by the German-Polish Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK). The aim is to promote Polish-German economic cooperation, including the development of bilateral trade and investment, economic support for less wealthy regions in Poland and Germany, and the promotion of business innovation in both countries.

For comparison: The energy savings from modernizing the fan coolers amounted to 486 megawatt-hours per year – equivalent to the energy demand of over 70,000 smartphones for an entire year. The use of low-temperature waste heat saved 851 megawatt-hours per year, which corresponds to the energy consumption of 20 flights on the Warsaw–Paris route. Together, this results in savings of 420 tons of CO₂ per year. This corresponds to the annual footprint of about 300 small combustion engine cars.

All winning teams of the Young Energy project were invited to the international meeting, which took place in June 2025 in Berlin. The three-day event brought together 27 winning teams from 10 European countries and offered a unique opportunity to exchange experiences, present results, and establish international contacts with specialists in the fields of energy efficiency and climate protection. ■

Annual SAVINGS for the plant	Gas	Electricity	Direct Emissions Scope 1	Indirect Emissions Scope 2
↓%	5%	3%	4%	3%
SAVINGS	Energy Savings (MWh/Year)	Reduction of the CO ₂ Footprint (tCO ₂ /Year)	Investment (€)	Payback Period (Years)
↘	486	259	82,715	0.82
	851	161	54,810	0.63
Result	1,337 MWh/Year	420 tCO ₂ /Year	137,525 €	0.74

AUTHOR: MAX ALBERT
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Creativity, Teamwork and Viral Trends!

The trainee editorial team is back and bringing a fresh breeze! With the support of our Social Media Manager Max Albert, a strong team of dedicated trainees has formed: Ozan, Kerem, Sasha, Kai, Nils, and Timo.



Kai shows how it's done: he not only shapes workpieces on the drill, but also pulls off THE moves. The reel became a hit with over 170,000 views on Instagram!

How it all began

The idea: Trainees should become content creators themselves and show their world – honest, creative, and relatable. Since the editorial team was rebuilt, there's been plenty of cool content on Instagram, and the team will soon launch on TikTok as well. Every Friday, the trainees meet with Max to brainstorm and implement new ideas. The result: videos, reels, and challenges that not only entertain but also educate.

First successes – and they're impressive

Kai at the machine: A reel in which Kai "shows his moves" has now reached over 160,000 views on Instagram. Proof of how authentic content excites the target audience. Or the 30-mm challenge: The four trainees Ozan, Kerem, Timo and Sasha estimate 30 millimeters. The video reached over 35,000 views, and Timo was almost spot on with 29.99 mm. Both educational and entertaining!

IAA Mobility giveaway: On the trainee channel, there was a giveaway where people had to guess the quantity of products that make up our raw car body. Two reels with Ozan – intro and reveal – generated over 20 comments and lots of interaction.



Focus on sustainability: Trainees from Attendorn plant their tree as part of the viral tree planting challenge. A strong sign of environmental awareness and team spirit.



Who is the best at estimating? Our trainees Ozan, Sascha, Kai, and Timo take on the 30 mm challenge, and Timo comes close to perfection with 29.99 mm! Expertise meets fun.



Ozan hosts the IAA Mobility competition: How many parts does the show car body have? Over 20 comments and lots of interaction show that our community loves challenges like this!

Viral trends in the training workshop

Clips showing how humorous training can be are especially popular. A highlight: Kai goes to his trainer Stefan Jeziorski and asks, "Mr. Jeziorski, is it okay if I take flex time today?" The answer: "Sure, if you manage a bottle flip!" Kai attempts the flip, but before the bottle lands, Stefan Jeziorski smacks it mid-air. A perfect mix of humor and trend that shows how approachable the training workshop is.

Trainees from Attendorn: Focus on sustainability

The trainees from Attendorn have also appeared on the Instagram channel. They participated in the viral tree-planting challenge: within 72 hours, a tree had to be planted – a trend that highlights environmental awareness and sustainability. After successfully participating, they nominated other companies to plant a tree as well. Our trainees got involved and planted their tree at the Attendorn site. A strong statement for responsibility and team spirit!

Why it works

The mix of authentic insights, technical challenges, humorous moments, and socially relevant trends resonates with the target audience. The trainee editorial team proves that social media can be more than advertising – it's a window into the real world of training at KIRCHHOFF Automotive.

What's next?

Even more challenges, technical insights, and maybe even a look behind the scenes of production. Follow us on Instagram – soon also on TikTok! ■



AUTHOR: SOUSCHA NETTEKOVEN-VERLINDE
MARKETING KIRCHHOFF MOBILITY

Experiencing Mobility – Innovations You Can Touch

At REHACARE 2025 in Düsseldorf, KIRCHHOFF Mobility presented its versatile solutions for wheelchair users: From ergonomic cockpits and compact lifts to the practical ProLine rear cut-out – all tested by an international audience.



Visitors were not only interested in the solutions on site, but there was also an increase in export inquiries.

From September 17–20, Düsseldorf once again became the meeting point for the international rehabilitation and mobility industry – and KIRCHHOFF Mobility was right in the middle of it. At our 45 m² booth in Hall 6, the focus was on our own products: from driving and operating aids to ergonomic seats, the SF 350 III wheelchair lift, and the ProLine rear cut-out.

EasySpeed – ergonomic, intuitive, durable

In the cockpit area, steering aids, multi-commanders, pedal adaptations, and the EasySpeed hand control for gas and brake were available for testing. Minimal space requirements, mechanical power transmission to the pedals, and natural movement patterns make these solutions ergonomic and safe to drive – and they thrilled the visitors.

Direct experience matters

Those who test the products live immediately understand which solution best suits their needs. From the cockpit to lifts and rear cut-outs, interested visitors could experience all products up close. International guests from countries including Japan, Ukraine, and Finland also took the opportunity to compare solutions and ask questions.

KIRCHHOFF Mobility draws an entirely positive conclusion: Intensive conversations, hands-on demonstrations, and valuable feedback show that our solutions noticeably improve mobility for people with disabilities – and that we will continue to set standards with innovation and customer proximity. ■



ProLine rear cut-out – practical and ergonomic

Our ProLine rear cut-out for the Volkswagen Caddy 5 and Ford Tourneo Connect attracted particularly strong interest. With a tub width of 82.5 cm, entering and maneuvering the wheelchair becomes significantly easier. The well-thought-out tub floor design ensures an upright, fatigue-free seating position, while partially integrated front retractors create more legroom. The long, gently sloping ramp also allows for especially effortless handling.

Wheelchair lift SF 350 III – compact, flexible, independent

The SF 350 III impressed with its space-saving design and versatile operation. It swings out parallel to the vehicle, works even in tight parking spaces, and easily handles curbs or small steps. Visitors could test the platform mechanically via hand lever, electrically, or optionally via remote control – allowing wheelchair users to operate the lift independently.



- 01 The atmosphere was lively, the weather sunny, and many customers traveled from all over Germany specifically to attend. The "Here I am @REHACARE 2025" selfie frame also provided lighthearted moments and memorable photos.
- 02 The six-person team from Hilden, Berlin, and Munich provided expert advice with a consistent look.
- 03 SF 350 III wheelchair lift: Space-saving extension and also suitable for curbs
- 04 ProLine rear cutout: Our versatile rear cutout for Volkswagen and Ford

AUTHOR: MARTHA SOBEK
SALES AND MARKETING LATIN AMERICA

At BIEL Light+ Building 2025, Argentina's leading trade fair for electrical engineering and lighting, WITTE Tools showcased its complete range of high-quality tools for electrical installation.

The trade fair appearance in the Argentine metropolis of Buenos Aires was more than just a product presentation – it marked a strategic move into the Mercosur region (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay). As negotiations on the trade agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur bloc enter their final phase, WITTE Tools is positioning itself early as a European quality provider with a clear promise of origin.

Dual Strategy: Own Brand and Private Label

At the booth, WITTE Tools showcased its dual business model: alongside the established range under the WITTE brand, the company also presented its private-label solutions. This flexibility allows local trading partners to either rely on the proven German brand or offer products under their own name – always with the quality and precision of WITTE Tools.

The portfolio includes specialized tools for electricians and installers – from the MAXX VDE

screwdriver to PRO WITTRON® ESD/VDE screwdrivers and the BITDRIVE Torque VDE torque screwdriver, as well as MAXX ratchets and MAXX/PRO bits. All products comply with strict EU standards – a quality feature that is gaining importance in the context of the planned trade agreement.

Mercosur Agreement: Paving the Way for New Trade Structures

The EU-Mercosur agreement could fundamentally reshape the trade landscape. For manufacturers like WITTE Tools, which produce within the European Community, customs barriers would fall and administrative hurdles would be reduced. Entering the market early gives the company a knowledge advantage: Which products are in demand? Which standards apply? Who are the key distribution partners?

The response at BIEL Light+ Building was extremely positive. Trade visitors were particularly interested in German manufacturing quality – a clear advantage in a market that has so far been dominated by Asian imports. ■



Also in action at the WITTE Tools trade fair booth: Our distribution partner in Argentina, ESPACIO MARKETING.

Off to New Shores



Martha Sobek, Sales and Marketing for Latin America, was pleased with the strong interest shown by the electrical engineering professionals and gave a positive summary of the trade fair.

AUTHOR:
CLAUDIA SCHAUE
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER



Home Is Where the Crew Is

FAUN participated in the photo competition "Best AzubiPic 2025" organized by the associations NORDMETALL and Employers' federation North for the metal and electrical industry.

*down-to-earth, full of ideas and
unapologetically different*

Meet our apprentices taking their seats: Leon Klonecki, Meik Müller, Maximilian Müller-Kahle and Gene Maximilian Wedemeyer (from left). Concept & photo by Torge Wassmann, marketing communications trainee.



What's inside our apprentices and a waste collection body was captured in a photo by our industrial trainees. An armchair, carpet, floor lamp, and the Justus figure were gathered and the 24 m³ steel steel body was cozily decorated. Then it was time to take a seat, smile, and click. That was our photo entry for the annual competition of the metal associations in the north of Germany. We didn't make it onto the podium, but we did win the special prize for the idea.

FAUN is familiar, imaginative, and sometimes even unusual. Everyone can show what they're made of. ■

**Ready to jump
in with us?**

The image charmingly tells the story that FAUN is more than waste trucks, sweepers, steel, and technology. It symbolically represents the spirit of the company: a workplace where people feel comfortable, get creative, and live community. The "living room" staging makes it tangible that working at



Baby, it's cold outside

AUTHOR: CLAUDIA SCHAUE
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER

When the cold season hits, the real work begins.

When it's dark, wet and freezing outside, the crew at the back of the truck enters one of the toughest stretches of the year. Shorter days, slick roads, visible breath in the air – and the operating teams of waste trucks running at full power. It feels like it's always cold. Always dark. That's exactly where FAUN steps in: with smart details that make a real difference.

Three thoughtful options for rear loaders – built for winter, built for the crew:



Illuminated handgrips

Lighted handles show the team exactly where to reach – glare-free and safe, even in total darkness.



Heated handgrips

Warm hands stay ready for action. More comfort, more safety, especially when mornings hit below zero.



Integrated glove dryer

Say goodbye to wet gloves. While the crew moves from bin to bin, gloves dry on the go – delivering a comfortable grip for every lift.



Safety & Performance – upgraded for winter



Each feature can be controlled easily via the main control panel or a dedicated switch. Shorter movements, better visibility, more safety – day in, day out.

FAUN proves once again: comfort and safety go hand in hand. Quite literally. ■

AUTHOR: CLAUDIA SCHAUE
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER



"Our dealers are far more than sales partners. They're part of the FAUN family."

Mario Ringl,
Sales Manager Cleaning Division

We are family

There's always something special in the air when FAUN dealers come together. Once a year, it's not just about technology, it's about ideas, the future, and everything that makes FAUN a strong, international brand.

In November, the sweeper plant FAUN Viatic in Grimma set the stage for what drives FAUN and its partners: innovative vehicles, customer-focused options and smart solutions that make operators' daily work easier.

The 50 international guests received exclusive insights into the latest developments in FAUN waste trucks and sweepers, explored service innovations and experienced firsthand where FAUN sweepers are built and where the FAUN family spirit lives.

But the dealer meeting was much more than a product showcase. It was a true exchange of cultures, markets and perspectives. From Finland to Uzbekistan, there are different requirements, but one shared ambition: learning from one another and growing together.

"Our dealers are far more than sales partners," says Mario Ringl. "They're part of the FAUN family. Only together can we respond to market needs, drive innovation and offer our customers the best solutions worldwide."

The next reunion? At the latest, next year at IFAT in Munich. ■

AUTHOR: CLAUDIA SCHAUE
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER



Fresh Drive in Export

Since September 2025, Adil Sriki has strengthened the FAUN team as Export Sales Manager for the Cleaning Division.

Holding a degree in industrial engineering with a focus on automotive technology and economics, he brings extensive experience in technical sales and product management across the commercial vehicle sector.

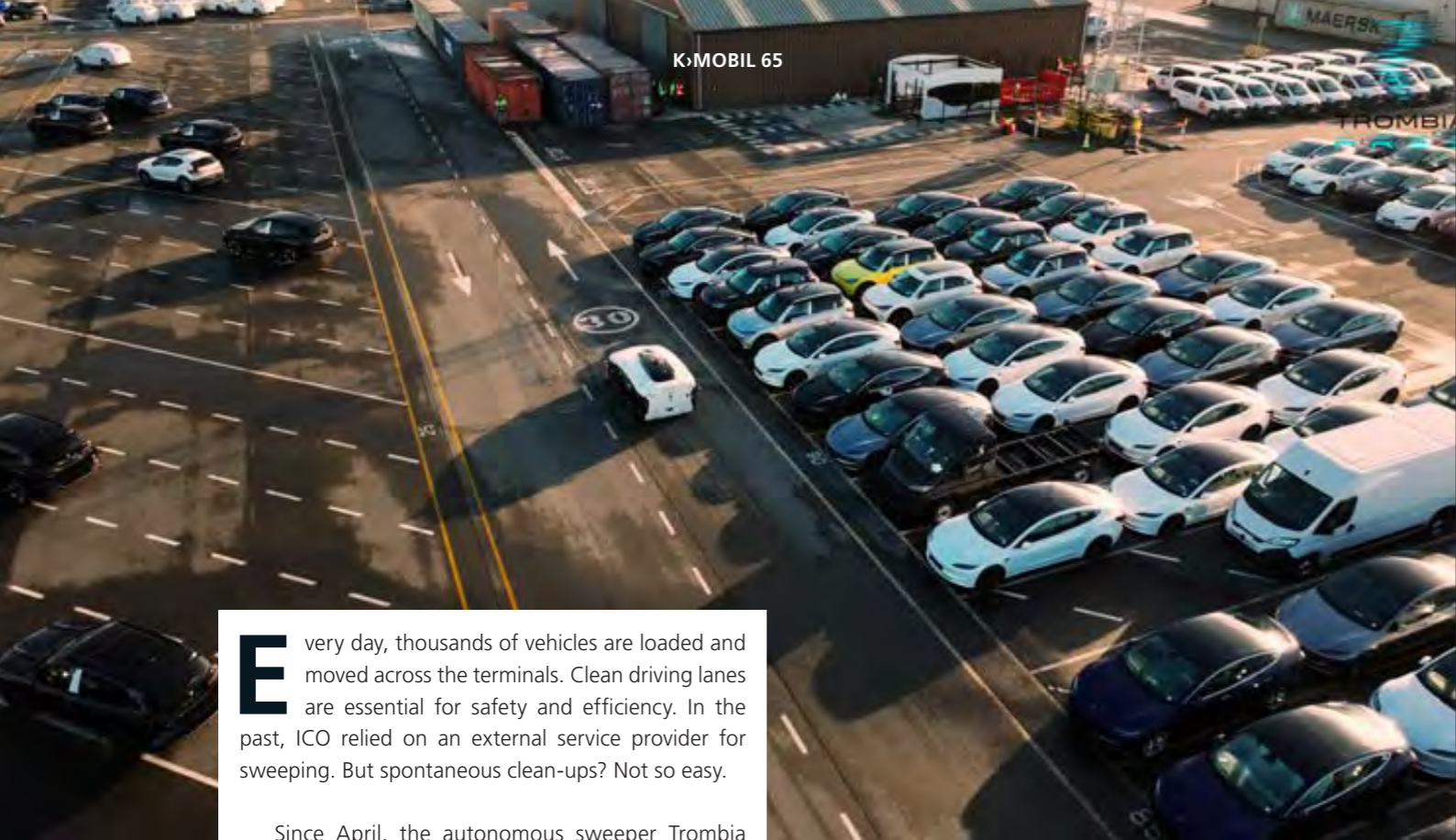
In his new role overseeing sweeper sales, Adil is responsible for the markets in North Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia. His work centers on customer-focused solutions and long-term, partnership-based collaboration within an international team. "I'm excited to bring my export experience to FAUN and to represent the company worldwide," he says.

Welcome to the team, Adil – we're thrilled to have you on board. ■

24/7

AUTHOR: ANTTI NIKKANEN
MANAGING DIRECTOR TROMBIA TECHNOLOGIES

In Zeebrugge and Antwerp, operations never slow down. Vehicles move across the grounds minute by minute, and dust and dirt are simply part of everyday life on the terminal. That's why the Belgian logistics provider International Car Operators (ICO) relies on the autonomous sweeper Trombia Free to keep its vast vehicle terminals clean and running smoothly.



Every day, thousands of vehicles are loaded and moved across the terminals. Clean driving lanes are essential for safety and efficiency. In the past, ICO relied on an external service provider for sweeping. But spontaneous clean-ups? Not so easy.

Since April, the autonomous sweeper Trombia Free has taken over – cleaning roads and open areas completely on its own. It follows predefined routes, detects obstacles, and keeps a safe distance from people and objects. Once the job is done, it automatically returns to its service station, empties its debris container, and performs a self-wash. Always ready for the next shift, 24/7.

The system combines state-of-the-art sensors and intelligent software control with a robust sweeping mechanism. Even in heavy traffic or changing weather, it delivers consistently clean results – without downtime or delays.

"If there's dirt somewhere, we can react immediately," says Fanni Arvai, Innovation and Sustainability Manager at ICO. "Trombia Free is ready to go – quiet, efficient, and emission-free." The system saves energy, reduces costs, and keeps the terminals permanently clean. For ICO, it's a real step forward: less effort, greater safety, and a clear win for the environment. "Innovation is part of our DNA," adds CEO Alain Guillemyn. "Trombia Free shows how technology helps us combine quality with sustainability."

Trombia Technologies – the Finnish FAUN subsidiary specializing in special vehicles and snow attachments – not only supplied the system, but also provided training, installation, and service. Together, ICO and Trombia Technologies are continuously refining the system, always with the needs of large logistics hubs in mind. ■



Sustainably Clean

Beyond saving time and costs, Trombia Free impresses with its environmentally friendly technology:

- 100% electric, zero emissions
- Up to 85% more energy-efficient than diesel sweepers
- Lower operating costs thanks to minimal maintenance
- Quiet operation, ideal for noise-sensitive areas and night shifts



ONE OF US



Christian Kluge, a technician at FAUN Viatic GmbH in Grimma, doesn't just keep things running at work — he does the same back home in Colditz. For more than four years, he has been volunteering with GoTeam, a youth initiative that encourages young people to turn their ideas into reality and take an active role in shaping their town, whether in local politics or community projects. "It matters to me that children and teenagers learn to speak up, take responsibility in a democratic process, and feel proud of what they achieve. When they realize their voice truly makes a difference, that's when real change happens," Christian says.



With heart and compassion:
Megan Lord & Juli Hampson
(from left).

With heart and daffodil vibes

Fleet Services, a subsidiary of FAUN ZOELLER UK is proud to announce a new charity partnership with Marie Curie, the UK's leading end-of-life care charity. The partnership will combine fundraising, volunteering and awareness initiatives to support the charity's vital work.

AUTHOR: RYAN CURTIS
PR MANAGER FAUN ZOELLER UK

At this year's RWM show, FAUN ZOELLER UK unveiled a new 16-tonne waste truck featuring Marie Curie's distinctive daffodil branding. After the exhibition, the vehicle will join the company's hire fleet. Each year FAUN ZOELLER will provide a donation annually plus with additional team fundraising. Visitors to the FAUN ZOELLER UK stand at RWM also had the chance to meet Julie Hampson, a Marie Curie representative, who was on hand to talk about the charity's work. Branded merchandise and daffodils were available to raise funds and awareness.

The partnership extends beyond the exhibition hall, with FAUN ZOELLER UK planning a calendar of fundraising activities including bake sales, Christmas competitions and more. Employees will also volunteer at key Marie Curie events, such as supporting their stand at the London Marathon. In addition, members of the FAUN ZOELLER UK team will be invited to visit a Marie Curie hospice to meet staff and learn more about the charity's impact.

„Their work providing care and support to people with terminal illness and their families is truly inspiring.“

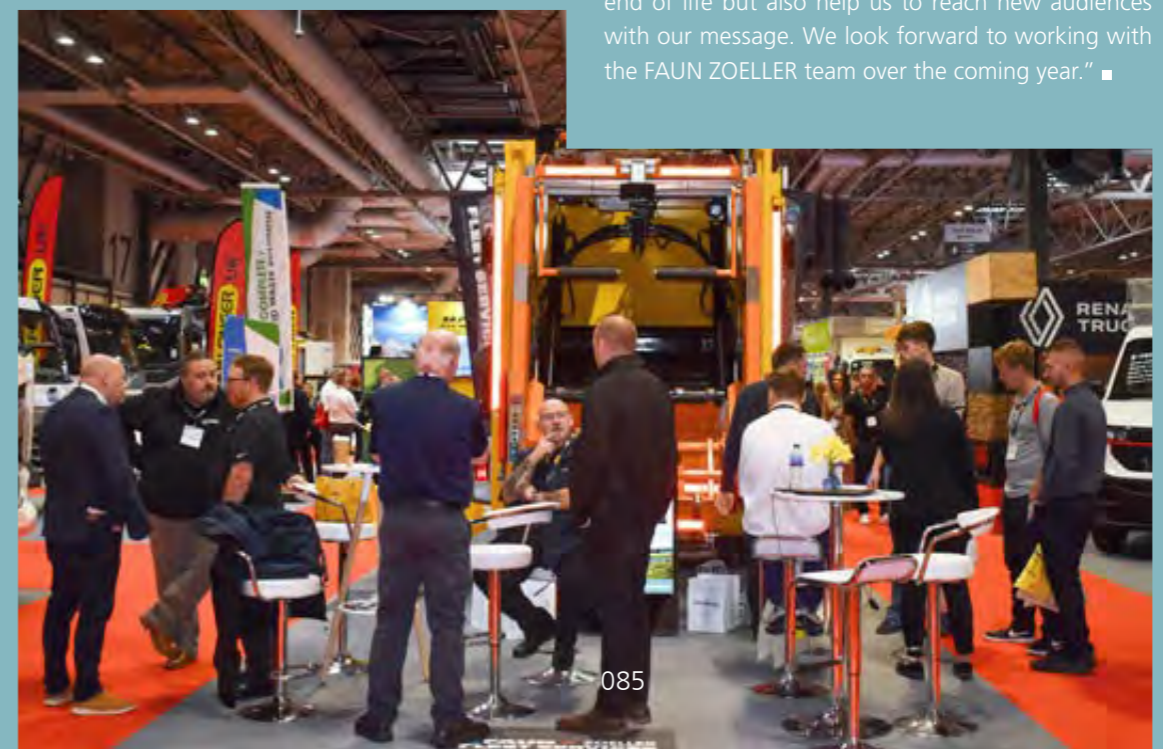
Richard Horton, CEO von FAUN ZOELLER UK.



The FAUN ZOELLER UK & Fleet Services team: Richard Horton, Megan Lord, Helena Ford and Rob Yates (from left).

“We are delighted to be partnering with Marie Curie,” said Richard Horton, CEO of FAUN ZOELLER UK. “Their work providing care and support to people with terminal illness and their families is truly inspiring. As a business, we’re committed to making a positive difference and this partnership gives us the chance to contribute in a meaningful way — whether that’s through fundraising, volunteering or raising awareness.”

Julie Hampson, Regional Partnerships Lead North at Marie Curie, said: “We’re thrilled to have the support of FAUN ZOELLER UK. Partnerships like this not only raise vital funds to ensure we can continue to provide expert care and compassion to people at the end of life but also help us to reach new audiences with our message. We look forward to working with the FAUN ZOELLER team over the coming year.” ■



INTERVIEW: STEFANIE STÜTING
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

Responsibility in good hands

After 23 years at the helm of the ZOELLER GROUP, Thomas Schmitz will retire at the end of 2025. Under his leadership, the company became one of Europe's leading manufacturers of waste collection vehicles and lifter systems. On January 1, 2026, Markus Dautermann – previously COO and Managing Director of ZOELLER SYSTEMS in the Czech Republic – will take over.

Mr. Schmitz, Mr. Dautermann, you've worked closely together for many years. What has shaped this collaboration?

Thomas Schmitz: Markus has always stood out for his enthusiasm, empathy, and sense of responsibility. He sees challenges as opportunities, develops clear solutions, and implements them consistently.

Markus Dautermann: Thomas placed trust in me early on and gave me room for my own ideas. That support shaped my development and gave me the courage to take on responsibility.

Which milestones were decisive for the development of the ZOELLER GROUP?

Thomas Schmitz: The two-brand strategy, the service orientation in Germany, and the integration of European sites. Harmonizing product families and investing in digitalization and electrification also set the course.

Markus Dautermann: The industrialization of our Czech plant was another important step. With modern automation, such as our first paint robot, we were able to significantly increase efficiency and quality – a win for the entire group.

The industry is facing major changes. Where do you see opportunities and challenges?

Thomas Schmitz: Digitalization offers enormous opportunities – from more efficient processes to new business models. At the same time, the shortage of skilled workers presents major tasks. Automation and AI will help us use resources wisely and remain competitive.

Markus Dautermann: We are already innovation leaders. What matters is making technological progress usable for our customers – that will continue to secure competitive advantages.

Mr. Schmitz, what was especially important to you in the succession process?

Thomas Schmitz: Continuity and trust. A stable succession doesn't happen by chance. Those who bear responsibility must ensure the company remains successful in the future. Markus knows the company, the people, and the values – he has long played a key role in shaping the company's direction.

Mr. Dautermann, what defines ZOELLER for you – and what would you like to continue or change?

Markus Dautermann: The service mindset is our brand core. Customers value the availability and reliability of our products – and that we go the extra mile. We will continue to develop this standard with customized service concepts, digitalization, and AI. At ZOELLER, tradition and progress go hand in hand.

What would you like to share with employees at the turn of the year?

Thomas Schmitz: The ZOELLER GROUP is excellently positioned structurally, in terms of personnel, and strategically – the best conditions for a successful future.

Markus Dautermann: Our success is based on committed, competent teams. Even though times are becoming more dynamic: we will master the upcoming challenges together.

Finally, Mr. Schmitz – any personal words for your successor?

Thomas Schmitz: Markus, you have everything it takes. Listen carefully, preserve what has proven itself, and shape ZOELLER with your own signature. I wish you all the best for that. ■



Generational change: Thomas Schmitz hands over to Markus Dautermann.

Site expansion in Bischofshofen

STUMMER is taking the next big step in Bischofshofen and expanding its site— complete with noise protection, an enlarged PV system, and 90% energy self-sufficiency. Completion is planned for May 2026.



The STUMMER Kommunalfahrzeuge production site in Bischofshofen, Austria, where a new assembly hall will be completed by May 2026.

Walking across the STUMMER grounds in Bischofshofen, you can immediately feel that progress is underway. Where the company's first major expansion began in 2019 with the groundbreaking of Hall 4, the next phase of development is now beginning to take shape. After renovating the existing halls, building new painting, grinding, and washing facilities, and fully transitioning to renewable energy sources, the project is now moving forward— right next door.

The new assembly hall will become the heart of chassis preparation and the "marriage" of the body and the truck. It will provide space for four preparation stations, a dedicated assembly area for prototype construction, and designated parking for customer deliveries. Altogether, the production site will grow by an impressive 7,500 m², equipped with everything required for state-of-the-art vehicle manufacturing.

AUTHOR: STEFANIE STÜTING
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

Logistics will also see major improvements. All shuttle trips to the previous temporary storage site will be eliminated. Chassis deliveries by car transporter and superstructures from the ZOELLER plant in Poland will arrive directly at the new location. Approximately 85 new truck parking spaces, dedicated access roads, a weighbridge, supercharger-equipped charging stations, and a parking management system linked directly to production planning will ensure streamlined processes and minimal maneuvering.

Special attention is being given to noise protection and positive relations with neighbors. STUMMER aims to keep the impact on local residents as low as possible – both during construction and later during operation. Noise-reducing solutions were incorporated early in the planning phase to ensure that the expansion integrates smoothly into the surrounding area.

STUMMER is also making another leap forward on the energy front: with an expanded photovoltaic system and a 200 kWh battery storage unit, the company will operate at roughly 90% energy self-sufficiency in the future. For the first time, an air-source heat pump will also be used to heat the industrial floor – another important step toward sustainable production.

The planning process was open and transparent, developed together with the citizens of Bischofshofen, and received broad public support. Construction began in October 2025, with completion scheduled for May 2026.

With this new hall, STUMMER is not only strengthening its presence in Bischofshofen but also reinforcing its role as an innovation leader in municipal vehicle manufacturing— more efficient, more sustainable, and more community-minded than ever. ■



The new assembly hall will be the heart of chassis preparation and the "marriage" between the body and the truck.



Around 85 new truck parking spaces on the outdoor premises will ensure smooth workflows and short maneuvering distances.



Sustainability is a top priority and plays a major role in the site expansion.

Quiet sounds for loud shards



Milan has a new sound. Or rather – thanks to STUMMER’s new glass collection vehicles – almost no sound at all. Where the daily clatter and clinking of glass disposal once echoed through the streets, a new generation of collection vehicles now moves through the city almost silently. The goal: make glass collection quieter, more efficient, and more city-friendly.

AUTHOR: STEFANIE STÜTING
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

Anyone who has ever disposed of glass in the northern Italian metropolis knows the issue: bottles clinking in the recycling containers, the explosive crash when they’re emptied – often exceeding 100 decibels, louder than a jackhammer. A daily source of frustration for residents. Milan’s city cleaning authority decided that recycling should no longer mean noise – and found the ideal partner in STUMMER. Developed in cooperation with AMSA Milano and the high-tech startup Phononic Vibes, the vehicles are delivered and serviced by FARID.

Left: Glass collection has never been so quiet: Together with Italian superstructure manufacturer FARID, STUMMER has developed a new generation of state-of-the-art collection vehicles featuring particularly low-noise technology. Twenty-eight vehicles are in use in Milan.

Below: The superstructure consists of special sandwich panels with a honeycomb structure and is supplemented by stainless steel components and corrosion-protected parts. The result: minimal noise generation of just 72 dB(A).



Breaking New Ground in Vehicle Construction

“Becoming quieter without losing strength– that was the big challenge. With the use of new sandwich sheet metal technology in municipal vehicle construction, we’re entering completely new territory,” says STUMMER Managing Director Johann Streif.

At 72 dB(A), the new collection vehicles fall well below AMSA’s maximum allowable limit of 76 dB(A). A reduction of just 3 dB(A) corresponds to a perceived halving of the volume. This is made possible by an all-new sandwich design for the vehicle walls, using sound-absorbing materials that dampen vibrations instead of transmitting them. The challenge was significant: noise protection meeting heavy-duty performance. The metal panels not only need to insulate – they must withstand several tons of glass. For the first time, a technology originally developed in research has been successfully applied to municipal vehicle construction.

Performance Meets Noise Protection

From a technical standpoint, the new glass collection vehicle impresses across the board. With a loading volume of 23 to 28 cubic meters, screw conveyors, and two single-delta automatic lifters for 120- to 360-liter containers, the vehicle collects up to 11 tons of glass per route – thanks to fine-tuning carried out on site by the joint FARID and STUMMER team. The body is built with durable steel, stainless-steel flooring, and perforated acoustic panels with mineral insulation. Everything is powered by an environmentally friendly SCANIA chassis – significantly quieter and lower in emissions than conventional diesel engines.

What is beginning in Milan could soon set a benchmark across Europe. Demand for quiet, sustainable solutions in the urban circular economy continues to rise. Phononic Vibes technology is already available for the FARID FMO side loader, with additional FARID and STUMMER products soon to follow. “This development will set the trend for low-noise glass collection. We are already receiving additional inquiries from Germany and abroad,” adds Johann Streif. ■

AUTHOR: STEFANIE STÜTING
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP



Ready for take-off – in terms of cleanliness

Facts at a glance:

Vienna Airport:

- Two STUMMER MEDIUM X4 on Mercedes-Benz Econic 6x2
- Payload optimization system (+25% payload)
- Reduced working pressure: 130 bar instead of 230 bar
- 25-year partnership with STUMMER

Zurich Airport:

- Three fully electric waste collection vehicles from STUMMER
- 100% electricity from renewable sources
- Part of the decarbonization strategy until 2040
- Collaboration with Contena-Ochsner

STUMMER delivers seamless waste disposal logistics and sustainable solutions at two of Europe's top airports. Thanks to STUMMER's advanced technology, Vienna and Zurich are achieving new benchmarks in efficiency, quiet operation, and sustainability.

Three fully electric waste collection vehicles from STUMMER are in use at Zurich Airport.

A powerful duo for the Vienna sky

As jets take off from Vienna Airport, two new STUMMER powerhouses are keeping things moving. The MEDIUM X4 ensures smooth operations between terminals, runways, and logistics centers – quietly, efficiently, and reliably.

Built on Mercedes-Benz Econic 6x2 chassis, these waste disposal vehicles excel in everyday use. A new payload optimization system allows recyclable materials like cardboard and plastic to be compacted, boosting payload capacity by up to 25% while reducing energy consumption. The result: less hydraulic strain, lower fuel consumption, and greater sustainability. For 25 years, STUMMER and Vienna Airport have maintained a strong partnership based on reliability, service, and quality.

“We take pride in having Vienna Airport as a customer for a quarter of a century. Delivering a vehicle is only the beginning – the true challenge lies in keeping it fully operational over the long term.”

Johann Streif, STUMMER Managing Director

Zurich goes electric

Waste disposal is entering a new era in Switzerland. Flughafen Zürich AG, together with Contena-Ochsner, has introduced the first fully electric STUMMER waste disposal vehicles. These trucks replace three conventional fuel-powered vehicles and operate continuously to manage waste and cardboard throughout the airport grounds. Switzerland's largest airport is steadily advancing its decarbonization strategy: by 2040, all vehicles will run on alternative propulsion. Today, the airport already operates entirely on electricity from renewable sources.

The future on wheels

Vienna and Zurich airports show how sustainable waste management succeeds when technology meets responsibility. STUMMER provides the ideal solutions – reliable, thoughtfully engineered, and ready for the future. ■



Two STUMMER MEDIUM X4 vehicles on Mercedes-Benz Econic 6x2 chassis have been in operation at Vienna Airport since the beginning of the year.

AUTHOR: ISABELLE CUROT
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

Semat: 80 Years of experience



The year 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of SEMAT and the 35th anniversary of MANJOT Environnement. Two milestones that embody the reliability, passion, and innovative strength of both companies.



SEMAT celebrated its 80th anniversary at the POLLUTEC trade fair in Lyon.

From October 7 to 10 at the POLLUTEC trade fair in Lyon, SEMAT once again showcased how closely it aligns with its customers' needs: Through strong expertise, practical solutions, and a clear vision for the future.

SEMAT marked its 80th anniversary in a festive atmosphere, attended by Dr. Johannes Kirchhoff and Thomas Schmitz. The commitment for the future was unmistakable: to actively shape change, foster innovation, and support customers in a true spirit of partnership.

Mastering customers' operational challenges

Through its new developments, SEMAT showcased practical solutions designed to increase safety, performance, and control, especially in maintenance and efficiency. The innovations demonstrate how consistently the company delivers sustainable, high-value solutions aligned with the realities of day-to-day operations.

Impressing visitors with practical experience

Beyond the technical exchanges at the trade fair stand, visitors enjoyed hands-on insights at the nearby workshop in Saint-Priest. SEMAT presented an extensive selection of its products, inviting guests to touch, test, and experience them directly. Customers were able to witness the vehicles' performance firsthand and appreciate their benefits in everyday operations. This strong link to practical application is a hallmark of a company culture defined by decades of listening and learning. ■



Above: Visitors were also welcomed on the SEMAT premises during the trade fair.





EKOCEL impresses at POLECO 2025 in Poznań

The EKOCEL stand at POLECO – the largest and most important international trade fair for environmental protection in Poland and Eastern Europe.

Success across the board: EKOCEL wins two gold medals at POLECO 2025 – for technology, design, and innovative ideas.

From 14 to 16 October, EKOCEL (a sales company of the ZOELLER Group in Poland, based in Rekowo Górne) presented current technical solutions for waste collection at the International Environmental fair POLECO in Poznań. Guests at the stand were able to see how innovative control and vehicle systems make work safer, more efficient, and more comfortable.

A major highlight was the award of the trade fair's gold medal to the ZOELLER Control System II (ZCSII). The jury praised the system's high

technological standards, innovative strength, and practical benefits.

In addition, EKOCEL received the Golden Acanthus (Acanthus Aureus) – an award for its innovative exhibition stand, which implemented modern exhibition concepts in a highly convincing manner.

The trade fair served not only as a platform for new technical solutions but also as a testament to EKOCEL's dedication to development and design, reflecting the ongoing enhancement of its products and presentations.



Left: Award for the ZOELLER Control System II (ZCSII) and the Golden Acanthus (Acanthus Aureus) for the exhibition concept of the EKOCEL trade fair stand. **Right:** From left: Krzysztof Sosnowy (CEO EKOCEL), Grzegorz Kreft (Head of Construction Department at ZOELLER TECH), Karol Grabowski (Project Manager, Construction Department at ZOELLER TECH) and Rainer Rohler (CEO ZOELLER TECH).



AUTHOR: KATARZYNA STERNE
EDITORIAL TEAM ZOELLER GROUP

Customer Days 2025 at ZOELLER TECH in Poland

Technology in dialog: ZOELLER TECH opened its gates to guests from all over Europe at its Customer Days 2025 event in Rekowo, Poland.

The spring and fall Customer Days gave ZOELLER TECH's international clients and partners the opportunity to explore the production site up close and meet the people behind the technology.

The first event in May focused on the Scandinavian countries. Over 100 visitors from Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Sweden traveled to the site to observe the step-by-step manufacturing process of a waste collection vehicle – from construction and assembly to quality control.

In September, an Austrian delegation visited the company: around 30 regular customers of STUMMER took advantage of their stay at ZOELLER TECH to learn about new products and exchange practical experiences.

Both events demonstrated the value of direct dialogue. Guests gained a genuine insight into the daily work at ZOELLER TECH and provided valuable feedback for future developments. ■



Left: Around 30 regular clients of partner company STUMMER visited Poland in September. **Right:** Information and exchange of experience: A delegation from Scandinavia also visited Poland in 2025.





Merry Christmas and

a Happy New Year!