

**For immediate release**

## **Koehler Group Helps Restore Ihringer Ölstampfe Oil Mill**

- **Historic oil mill Ihringer brought back to life**
- **Koehler Group paves the way for mill wheel installation**
- **Historic building can be visited every first Wednesday of the month**

**Oberkirch, Germany, 11/25/2024**—The Koehler Group is assisting the “Oberkirch-Alte Stadt e.V.” association with the restoration of the Ihringer Ölstampfe oil mill. This historic building is in the direct vicinity of the family business’ headquarters in Oberkirch. The Koehler Group’s assistance has made it possible to restore the millstream to its earlier condition, which has eliminated the last obstacle in the way of operating the historic oil mill with a mill wheel.

### **Historic oil mill is brought back to life**

The Koehler Group was founded 1807, 217 years ago in its current domicile of Oberkirch. The millstream there always played an important role in the company’s papermaking activities, and its water is still being used to produce premium specialty paper products today. In addition, it functions as a landmark that is an integral part of Oberkirch’s idyllic landscape, not to mention that it is where the Ihringer Ölstampfe oil mill is located. The Koehler Group donated the land where the old oil mill is to the “Oberkirch-Alte Stadt e.V.” association back in 2013 after the latter declared its intention to bring the mill back to life.

Since then, a millstream trail has been built and the Ihringer Ölstampfe oil mill has been authentically restored down to the last detail thanks to the incredible volunteer efforts of the association’s members, the assistance provided by the town of Oberkirch, and the Regionalstiftung der Sparkasse Offenburg/Ober-tenau regional foundation. Before the historic mill wheel could be reinstalled at the mill, however, the millstream had to be restored to its earlier condition. This took quite a bit of work, which was undertaken by the Koehler Group in order to help out the volunteers in the “Oberkirch-Alte Stadt e.V.” association. “I myself grew up in Oberkirch, and know that Koehler’s history is an inseparable part of the town’s history. That’s why it has been such a pleasure to help the many volunteers that have lovingly restored the Ihringer Ölstampfe oil mill,” underscores Koehler Group CEO Kai Furler.

Thanks to the commitment shown by these volunteer members, the mill and its historic technology are becoming a highlight both for tourists and for those interested in learning more about our home. Rudolf Hans Zillgith, the association’s chairman, is tremendously happy with the result: “Thanks to the help of the Koehler Group, we can now bring back the most important part of any mill: the water wheel. That’s both the crowning achievement and end of this project, which more and more locals and tourists are visiting and learning to appreciate.” And they can visit the mill every first Wednesday of the month between 2:00 and 6:00 in the afternoon.

**Koehler Holding SE & Co. KG**

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*Figure: Thanks to the assistance of the Koehler Group, the millstream is now flowing as it originally used to and the volunteers in the “Oberkirch-Alte Stadt e.V.” association will be able to install the mill wheel. From left to right: Franz Dengler, Theo Maier (Koehler Group), Florian Braun, Stephan Zillgith, Lorenz Kimmig, Rudolf Hans Zillgith (chairman of the “Oberkirch-Alte Stadt e.V.” association), Klaus Furler (Koehler Group supervisory board), Hartmut Felsch (Koehler Paper Oberkirch mill director), Markus Huber (Rendler Bau), Günther Sauer, Hermann Braun, Kai Furler (Koehler Group CEO), and Ludwig Schweiger. Source: Koehler Group*

## About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbon-less paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy”.

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

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