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Koehler Paper and Badische Stahlwerke have launched a feasibility study for wind energy in the Rhine port of Kehl

- **Feasibility study launched for wind energy in the Rhine port of Kehl**
- **Energy-intensive paper and steel industries want to supply their own energy from renewable resources**
- **Climate goals of national and regional governments targeted**

Oberkirch and Kehl, 05/15/24 - Koehler Paper and Badische Stahlwerke (BSW), a steel producer, have teamed up with the Rhine port of Kehl to study the feasibility of harvesting wind energy at the port facilities. They hope to find out if building wind turbines is a feasible solution to supplying their own energy at the companies' sites in Kehl.

Energy cost in Germany have risen drastically in the last two years – a huge challenge for energy intensive companies like Koehler Paper and Badische Stahlwerke, especially given the intense international competition faced by both companies. At the same time, both companies need to source a significant quantity of electricity from renewables to meet the climate goals of the German national government and the government of the state of Baden-Württemberg, as well as the self-imposed climate goals of the companies themselves.

To meet these challenges head on, the two companies have launched a joint feasibility study for wind energy in cooperation with the Port of Kehl Administration. The objective of the study is to find out whether a wind power plant can be constructed at the facilities of the Rhine port of Kehl to supply the operational energy required by the two companies. Koehler Renewable Energy and Ökostromgruppe Freiburg, a green-energy company, will provide support for the project.

Wind measurements set to start in June

A species protection assessment and an environmental impact study have already been commissioned. Wind measurements are now scheduled to start in June. The feasibility study also includes an analysis of noise emissions and economic viability. The feasibility study is scheduled to last through the summer of 2025, and should indicate whether the site is suitable for wind turbines. If the results are positive, Ökostromgruppe Freiburg and Koehler Renewable Energy expect to submit an application for the construction of a wind power plant by the end of 2025. The number of planned wind turbines and the precise sites will have been specified by that time.

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An important step toward security of supply and climate-neutral production

"As an electric steel plant on the road to climate neutrality, we depend on a sufficient supply of green energy at competitive prices," says Andreas Volkert, one of the managing directors at Badische Stahlwerke. "So I'm very excited about the project we've undertaken with Koehler Paper and the Port of Kehl Administration. If constructing a wind power plant at the Rhine port of Kehl proves feasible, it would be an important step toward securing our energy supply and toward CO₂-neutral steel production."

Dr. Stefan Karrer, COO of the Koehler Group, had the following to add: "If the results of the feasibility study are positive and we are able to construct a wind energy plant at the facilities of the Rhine port of Kehl, it would mean huge progress in the effort to supply our own energy needs. This is one of the most urgent topics for a company with energy-intensive production processes such as ours. How can we secure our energy supply over the long-term and thus guarantee the economic viability of the site? Securing our sites and protecting jobs in Germany for years to come is our driving concern here."

This is also an important issue for Wolfram Britz, mayor of the city of Kehl. He was brought on board at an early stage and has provided support for the feasibility study: "CO₂-neutral companies in the Rhine port of Kehl, energy independence and job security will not only benefit the residents of our city but those of the neighboring communities as well. That's why communication with the neighboring communities in France and the city of Strasbourg is so important."

The Rhine port of Kehl has functioned as the central transshipment port for the business hub of Baden for almost 125 years. It spans an area of 320 hectares and accommodates numerous international businesses such as Koehler Paper and Badische Stahlwerke.



Figure: Both the Koehler Group and BSW have ambitious climate-strategy goals and look to utilize wind energy in the port of Kehl.

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 since 2019. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 67% in 2022, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.3 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, Koehler 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>

More on Badische Stahlwerke

Badische Stahlwerke GmbH (BSW) produces up to 2.4 million tons of concrete steel for the construction industry in Germany and neighboring countries. It currently employs 850 people at its Kehl site. Its products include reinforcing steel bars and coils, wire rod and reinforcing products for reinforced concrete construction. The company is the only steelworks in Baden-Württemberg and is one of the largest and most technologically advanced electric steel plants in Germany. In addition, Badische Stahlwerke is one of the largest employers in the region.

Rather than manufacturing steel from iron ore and coke, Badische Stahlwerke recycles scrap steel in a resource-friendly production process. The two electric arc furnaces used to melt scrap steel at high temperatures are powered predominantly with electricity, with natural gas providing only a small fraction of the power. The Badische Stahlwerke plant is already one of the most energy-efficient steelworks in the world. They have constantly worked to reduce their energy requirements for many years. Steel production, however, is and will continue to be energy-intensive. The share of energy costs to overall costs is 20% and has increased significantly in the past three years.

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