



## Press Release

### **ALFING Kessler Sondermaschinen takes over services and spare parts business of Mauser-Werke Oberndorf**

- 31 employees will be taken over by the investor as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 -
- Partial solution achieved in a very difficult market environment worsened by Corona -
  - All remaining customer orders will be reliably completed -
- Reconciliation of interests and social plan concluded with works council -
  - Employees move to transfer company -

**Oberndorf am Neckar, February 26, 2021.** After intensive and constructive negotiations, ALFING Kessler Sondermaschinen GmbH ('ALFING') based in Aalen acquires the services and spare parts business as well as the rebuild/refurbishment business of Mauser-Werke Oberndorf Maschinenbau GmbH ('MWO'). With the purchase of the subdivision, the strategic investor is taking over a total of 22 employees as well as 9 trainees from the previous 135 employees of the traditional company from Oberndorf am Neckar. This means that at least almost every fourth MWO employee will have a new employer.

The employees will transfer to the newly founded Sondermaschinen Oberndorf GmbH, a subsidiary of ALFING, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This new division will continue to supply customers who use Mauser brand machines with spare parts, reconstruction and services. "We are pleased that we have succeeded in securing 22 jobs at the Mauser company in Oberndorf for the long term can guarantee the completion of their training for all 9 apprentices. We will maintain technical service for the support of Mauser customers all over the world," say Dr. Thomas Koch and Eberhard Funk, managing directors of ALFING Kessler Sondermaschinen GmbH. The services and spare parts business as well as the remodeling business are geared towards a long-term, profitable services business with Mauser customers.

#### **Machine tool manufacturers for combustion engines in crisis**

The partial sale of the company took place in a very difficult market environment for automotive suppliers. The shift towards electric mobility has far-reaching consequences for the industry. For years, supplier companies such as MWO, which specializes in the manufacture of machine tools used in the automotive industry to produce parts of the combustion engine, have been in serious crisis. After no interested party was willing to make an offer for the acquisition of the entire MWO or further parts in an elaborate investor process, the remaining business units of MWO cannot continue to operate.

#### **No investor interest for entire company**

"We have tried everything to be able to continue as large a part of our company as possible. Due to the considerable upheavals in our market, which of course also affect all potential strategic investors, in the end only the continuation of a small part has been possible. Nevertheless, we are glad to have found ALFING, a solid and well-known Swabian machine tool builder, as our future owner," says Walter Börsch, Managing Director of MWO.

#### **All remaining orders will be reliably completed**

"We have examined all possible restructuring options in order to preserve as many jobs as possible and to achieve a continuation solution. But without an investor, the closure of operations for the areas that cannot be sold is unfortunately unavoidable," says Florian Volk, Managing Director of MWO. The management has informed the staff about the current status and the partial solution and thanked employees for their great commitment. In any case, the remaining customer orders in production will be processed and reliably completed by a small team for a limited period of time.



## **Move to a transfer company**

Despite the considerable job losses, a good socially acceptable solution was found for the employees. The management and the works council agreed on a reconciliation of interests and a social plan. All employees not taken over by the investor ALFING have received an offer to move to a transfer company on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for a period of six months. The transfer company, also called the employment and qualification company (Beschäftigungs- und Qualifizierungsgesellschaft, BQG), offers the employees better social protection against the threat of unemployment. The employees of the transfer company are not considered unemployed, are qualified and supported in their search for a new job on the labour market and will receive about 80 per cent of their last net salary.

## **Sale to ALFING makes transfer company possible**

The transfer company is financed by the purchase price paid by the investor ALFING. The purchase agreement will be completed on February 28, 2021. Without ALFING, the transfer company would not have been possible.

The machine tool company MWO, headquartered in Oberndorf am Neckar, had applied for insolvency protection to reorganize the company at the Rottweil District Court on October 30, 2020. The court appointed lawyer Dr. Holger Leichtle from the law firm GÖRG as administrator to protect the interests of the creditors. The long-established mechanical engineering company specializes in the manufacture of machine tools, which are used in the automotive industry to produce parts for the internal combustion engine. The machine tool builder develops and builds individual production plants on behalf of the international automotive industry as a turnkey solution according to customer requirements.

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## **About Mauser-Werke Oberndorf Maschinenbau GmbH**

Mauser-Werke Oberndorf Maschinenbau GmbH, based in Oberndorf am Neckar (Baden-Württemberg), specializes in the development and manufacture of machine tools and industrial systems, which are primarily used by automotive companies and their suppliers. The wide range of services extends from the supply of individual machines to turnkey production plants. Services such as plant conversions are also part of the Oberndorf company. Originally founded around 1811 as the Königlich Württembergische Gewehrfabrik (Royal Württemberg Rifle Factory) in Oberndorf, the company expanded its product range a hundred years ago to include various types of machines and is now one of the leading machine and tool specialists of the highest precision and robustness.

Further information at: [www.krause-mauser.com](http://www.krause-mauser.com)

## **About Alfing Kessler Sondermaschinen GmbH ('AKS')**

Alfing Kessler Sondermaschinen GmbH is the world market leader in connecting rod production. The product range of the company, founded in 1938, includes special machines and machining centers for connecting rod machining as well as assembly and fracture cutting machines. These are used primarily in the production processes of almost every major automobile manufacturer and supplier, who rely on the competence, innovative strength and patents of over 80 years of mechanical engineering tradition. Along with Alfing Montagetechnik GmbH ('AMT'), AKS is one of the two manufacturing companies in the Alfing Special Machinery Group, which also includes the sales and service subsidiaries Alfing Corporation, USA, and Alfing Machine Tools, China. AKS and AMT are run by a joint management team and are closely interlinked in the areas of development, design and production. With approx. 400 employees, the group generates an annual turnover of almost 80 million euros.

Further information at: [www.aks-amt.alfing.de](http://www.aks-amt.alfing.de)



# KRAUSE + MAUSER

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