

## **PRESS RELEASE**

21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

### **BUSINESS REPORT/ ACQUISITION OF WS EDELSTAHLTECHNIK GMBH & CO. KG:**

#### **KRONEN Nahrungsmitteltechnik looks back on a successful year 2019 and increases the vertical range of manufacture with the takeover**

As in the previous two years, KRONEN Nahrungsmitteltechnik GmbH achieved an increase in sales for the 2019 financial year compared to the previous year. With its established sales partner network, KRONEN again expanded its international success and delivered machines and processing systems to customers worldwide. And with the integration of the turning and milling parts manufacturer WS Edelstahltechnik as a KRONEN division on April 1, 2020, KRONEN is well positioned for the further success of the company with an expanded vertical range of manufacture.

With sales of EUR 17.3 million, KRONEN again registers a very good result for the 2019 financial year, which corresponds to an increase of 5% compared to the previous year. The return on sales developed particularly positively in the past year, which could be increased by various measures to enhance productivity and efficiency. As a result, a special bonus of 1,250€ could be distributed to each employee, which was higher than in previous years.

In 2019, KRONEN again delivered individual machines, special machines and high-tech process systems for the fresh-cut industry worldwide. The company's sustainable internationalization strategy is reflected in the steadily growing share of sales in international markets, with Germany remaining the market with the highest sales.

#### **Acquisition of WS Edelstahltechnik increases KRONEN's vertical range of manufacture**

Effective April 1, 2020, KRONEN Lebensmitteltechnik GmbH takes over WS Edelstahltechnik GmbH & Co. KG, based in Achern, which will henceforth be managed as a KRONEN division. WS Edelstahltechnik is a specialist for CNC turning and milling parts made of stainless steel as small and medium series in mechanical engineering and can look back on a long-standing business relationship with KRONEN.

With the acquisition, KRONEN expands its field of activity to the production of turned and milled parts, whereby the stainless steel components that continue to be manufactured in Achern will as hitherto be sold to other companies. By maintaining the production location in Achern, KRONEN takes over all 15 employees of WS Edelstahltechnik and therefore relies on a well-coordinated team. Wolfgang Schmälzle, who decided to hand over the business for family reasons, will continue to work there in a responsible position. The brand name WS Edelstahltechnik will continue as a division of KRONEN GmbH.

For KRONEN, the integration of WS Edelstahltechnik is an important strategic step to increase the vertical range of manufacture and thus to ensure the availability of high-quality components and to use synergies in both production facilities.

## **Internationalization, innovation and corporate success go hand in hand and rely on committed employees**

In addition to internationalization, the topic of innovation also remains central to KRONEN's corporate orientation. Last year, KRONEN was involved in several research and development projects and is cooperating with partner companies and research institutions to further develop innovative solutions for the fresh-cut industry.

Under the new management, KRONEN continues to see itself as a partner to its customers, sales partners, suppliers and employees. Together with the managing directors Stephan Zillgith, who has been with the company for 20 years, and Eric Lefebvre, who can look back on 10 years in the KRONEN family, 9 employees celebrated an anniversary in 2019. During the end-of-year review, the management thanked the entire staff and expressed their special thanks and appreciation to the long-standing employees for their solidarity and ongoing commitment:

- For her 10-year collaboration: Andreas Hauer, Angela Mätz, Tobias Studer
- For their 20 years of cooperation: Sennur Hepting, Ute Leibiger, Hubert Schwarz
- For their 25 years of collaboration: Michael Matzek, Günther Wöhrle
- For her 30 years of cooperation: Maryline Cretin

## **About KRONEN GmbH**

KRONEN is a family-owned, globally operating producer and supplier of stand-alone and special machines as well as of high-tech processing lines for the Fresh-cut industry. The product range of KRONEN and its partners covers fruit, vegetable and salad processing solutions for preparing, cutting, washing, de-watering, peeling, disinfecting and packaging.

In addition, KRONEN offers technical solutions for sectors such as meat and fish, bakery products, convenience and ready meals, dried and frozen products as well as pet food.

Today, the company based in Kehl at the Rhine in Germany has over 100 employees, representations in more than 80 countries worldwide and delivers its products in over 100 countries around the globe.

With more than 40 years of experience in food technology, KRONEN considers it a major commitment to keep traditional values such as quality awareness, and focuses on a sustainable, holistic approach for the hygienic and safe production of healthy food. KRONEN aims at being a think tank, creating innovative solutions in line with the customers' needs and for their benefits. In close cooperation with industry and research, it ensures a high consulting and planning expertise.

**Further information:** [www.kronen.eu](http://www.kronen.eu)

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## Pictures by KRONEN GmbH:

**After the acquisition of WS Edelstahltechnik, KRONEN GmbH now has two production facilities:**



Wolfgang Schmäzle (left) and Stephan Zillgith in front of the production location of WS Edelstahltechnik in Achern. Wolfgang Schmäzle, founder of the WS Edelstahltechnik GmbH & Co. KG will continue to work at the location in Achern after handing over the company.



The company building of WS Edelstahltechnik. KRONEN GmbH takes over all employees of the producer of turning and milling parts, the location in Achern remains.



The management team of KRONEN GmbH (from right to left) Johannes Günther, Eric Lefebvre, Rudolf Hans Zillgith, Stephan Zillgith and authorized signatory Robert Lankhart.



The company building of KRONEN Nahrungsmitteltechnik GmbH in Kehl now no longer is the only production facility of the company.