

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

### **RESEARCH PROJECT “SPLASH”: SUCCESSFUL TESTING OF NEW DISINFECTION TECHNOLOGY**

**A Project Meeting takes place with scientific partners, those from the industry and in practice**

Since 2019, along with the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomics (ATB Potsdam), Gartenfrisch Jung GmbH and the Leibniz Institute for Plasma Research and Technology e.V. (INP Greifswald) KRONEN has been working on developing an innovative washing process for fresh cut lettuce. During the Project Meeting at KRONEN's Head Office, a washing machine specially adapted for this decontamination process has now been tested. The next step in the project sees an extensive testing phase actually in the production line of one of the project members Gartenfrisch Jung, manufacturer of fresh-convenience.

The initial point of the research project is to prevent the risk of microorganisms from contaminating packed cut lettuce. Commonly, cell sap released from freshly cut lettuce combined with humidity (unavoidable in plastic packaging) provides a breeding ground for microorganisms.

#### **An innovative washing process for more consumer safety**

The main aim of the project is to create a resource-saving washing process for cut lettuce using a non-thermal plasma procedure. Hygienic treatment of the lettuce prevents premature spoilage therefore increasing consumer safety. Furthermore, the process is particularly gentle.

The tests that were carried out during the Project Meeting in Kehl were very successful. The washing machine specially adapted using the decontamination washing process was tested with cut iceberg lettuce (and put into operation live on site) by the project members. During the one-day workshop the project partners from both institutes and the manufacturer of fresh-convenience exchanged ideas with the KRONEN team regarding further results and next steps in the Project.

#### **Further research into the Process with a subsequent test phase**

Following the successful workshop, the washing machine will now undergo a test phase installed in the production at Gartenfrisch Jung GmbH and further data will be collected on the washing procedure. Here the focus is on the study of the disinfection efficiency in the wash water, the conservation of resources and the optimisation of transport and shelf life of the products.

The project sponsor of the research project is the German Federal Agency for Food and Agriculture. Funding is provided as part of the programme to promote innovation of the Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture.

#### **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



THE CROWN FOR FRESHNESS

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 120 employees and a second production site in Achern, 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.

**For further information please visit: [www.kronen.eu](http://www.kronen.eu)**

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**Photo material KRONEN GmbH**

**Project Meeting, part of Research Project „SPLASH“ at KRONEN GmbH in Kehl:**



Members of the Project Meeting in front of KRONEN Head Office, from left to right: Andreas Ell (KRONEN), Holger Schmidt, Dr. Clemens Morath (both Gartenfrisch Jung), Julia Durek, Oliver Schlüter (both ATB Potsdam), Dr. Jörg Ehlbeck, Jörg Stachowiak (both INP Greifswald) and Stephan Zillgith (KRONEN).



Andreas Ell at KRONEN GmbH demonstrates the specially adapted washing machine.



Project members discuss Project topics and ideas.



The specially adapted washing machine using the sanitising washing process was tested with cut iceberg lettuce live on-site by project participants.