

Press Release

Kistler invests in research and development

Winterthur, 11 June 2018 – The Kistler Group reports new orders totaling around CHF 202 million to the end of May. Year on year this represents growth of 11% or 7% after currency adjustment. This continuous growth is accounted for by the Swiss measurement technology expert's unswerving focus on the future-oriented trends of digitization and Industry 4.0. Kistler is underpinning this strategy by earmarking the highest investment budget in the company's history for research and development.

The success of Kistler Group hinges on the numerous innovations at the heart of all business units and products. Its enforced development work and increased potential for innovation is actually calling for a steep rise in demand for qualified committed employees: currently there are 185 vacancies to be filled, 41 of them in Switzerland. Around 1900 employees worldwide currently work for Kistler Group, 630 of whom are located at the group headquarters in Winterthur.

Paving the way to the smart factory: the KiDAQ data acquisition system

A part of the investment budget is earmarked for the new KiDAQ data acquisition system, which will be presented at the end of June at Sensor + Test 2018 in Nuremberg. "KiDAQ is another important step towards Industry 4.0 or the Internet of Things. It is through this new data acquisition system, that we can offer our customers the entire measuring chain from a single source – and take another step in our transition from a manufacturer of components towards becoming a solution provider," says Rolf Sonderegger, CEO of Kistler Group.

KiDAQ has a modular design, and thanks to various housing versions and numerous modules, it can be used in almost every application. Depending on the scope of application, you can choose from a variety of designs for laboratory applications, permanent installations and mobile use. Customers select the components they need for their measuring tasks from the hardware, software and sensors portfolios – and thus obtain the data acquisition system that is optimally adjusted to their specific application.

The new data acquisition system from Kistler is distinguished by three outstanding features: since all system components are calibrated, Kistler guarantees measurement reliability. Just as in the case of a car tacho, the values measured by the system are output exactly – without any deviations. User-friendliness is another feature, as the system can be intuitively controlled even by inexperienced users. To highlight its flexibility, Sonderegger explains: "In the future, not only will you be able to easily connect measuring components from Kistler, but also from selected third-party suppliers to assemble a measuring chain."

One system for every application

The KiDAQ from Kistler lets users explore new ground in the design of complex measuring chains commonly found in the field of research and development. An initial look at the system and how it can be used for measurements on machine tools was taken by the machine tool laboratory of RWTH Aachen University. "KiDAQ takes a lot of the effort out of setting up a measuring chain. In view of its modular universal approach and new features, I think the system is going to be an attractive alternative to current systems not only in the area of measurements on machine tools, but also in many other fields of research," says Sascha Kamps, development engineer for process monitoring in the laboratory's production technology cluster. A crucial aspect is the system's flexibility and interoperability within the context of Industry 4.0: "We of course use measuring systems from many different manufacturers in the lab. KiDAQ is particularly useful when setting up complex test benches and demonstrators for Industry 4.0 as it simplifies data acquisition and lets us get started faster," explains Kamps.



The new KiDAQ data acquisition system not only provides users with the entire measuring chain from a single source, but also a hitherto worldwide unique degree of measuring data transparency. (Source: Kistler Group)

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Über die Kistler Gruppe

Kistler is the global leader in dynamic measurement technology for measuring pressure, force, torque and acceleration. Cutting-edge technologies provide the basis for Kistler's modular solutions.

Customers in industry and science benefit from Kistler's experience as a development partner, enabling them to optimize their products and processes so as to secure a sustainable competitive edge. The owner-managed Swiss company's unique sensor technology plays a key role in the evolution of automobile development and industrial automation, as well as in numerous emerging sectors. With a broad knowledge of applications and its absolute commitment to quality, Kistler is making an important contribution to the further development of current megatrends. This includes topics such as electrified drive technology, autonomous driving, emission reduction and Industry 4.0.

Some 1900 employees at 61 locations worldwide are dedicated to developing new solutions and offer customized service for individual applications. Since its founding in 1959, the Kistler Group has grown along with its customers, generating sales of CHF 422 million in 2017. Approximately 8% of this went back into research and technology — and thus into achieving better results for all our customers.