

Press release

Kistler acquires Chinese mechanical engineering specialist

Machinery manufacturer LIK joins the Kistler Group, opening up wider access to the electric vehicle market

Winterthur, 6 September 2018

By acquiring Chinese mechanical engineering specialist LIK, the Kistler Group will not only strengthen its presence on China's very dynamic vehicle market but will also broaden its own range of expertise. Automated assembly lines will be added to Kistler's portfolio in the future, and the Group's new headcount after the acquisition will be more than 2 000.

Two major milestones for Kistler: *LIK Mechanical and Electrical Technology Co., Ltd.*, founded in 2010 in Shanghai, is the Group's first acquisition in the Far East – and this step also marks an expansion of Kistler's industrial expertise in the manufacture of automated production lines, with the focus on the rapidly growing electric vehicle sector. Kistler Group CEO Rolf Sonderegger comments: "LIK is a young company advancing in directions that fit perfectly with our strategy, and this acquisition will give us faster and wider access to the highly dynamic Chinese market. By expanding our capabilities in this way, we shall be able to deliver faster to our Chinese customers – and what's more, we can offer them more comprehensive solutions and even better service at the local level."

Highly integrated production of vehicle components

It has taken LIK only a short time to become a well-established supplier of highly automated assembly lines for vehicle components such as automotive seats, braking and safety systems, as well as test stands for electric motors. LIK's high-profile customers include many international corporations. James Wang, CEO of LIK, explains: "With Kistler as our partner, we are very definitely on course for growth. We're looking forward to joining forces with the Kistler Group so that we can help to shape the mobility of tomorrow's world together, and we aim to make even better use of the diverse opportunities in vehicle production, especially in China."

Holistic solutions, faster deliveries, enhanced service

By acquiring LIK, Kistler is consolidating its presence on the world's largest vehicle market – and in the future, the Group's quality monitoring and process optimization systems for the Chinese market will also be manufactured in China itself. The portfolio includes the highly popular electromechanical joining systems and test stands for electric motors, as well as process monitoring and test automation systems. As Rolf Sonderegger points out: "The *China Manufacturing 2025* program attests the nation's clear commitment to highly automated, quality-focused industry that makes efficient use of resources. In the Kistler Group, we have the right technologies to realize this vision –

so this is a perfectly logical step for us to take. By collaborating with LIK, we can offer a holistic range of integrated production systems to meet the growing demand for turnkey solutions – which is especially acute in the Far East."

New production facility for the future

The facilities currently operated by LIK and Kistler China in Shanghai will be retained. LIK – which already has over 100 employees – will very soon be reaching the limits of its existing capacity, so planning for another production facility in China is already under way. However, there are no plans to relocate jobs from other Kistler Group production facilities.

Visuals (Reproduction is free of charge provided that the Kistler Group is credited as the source of the image)



Setting the course for the future together – the acquisition is decided: Rolf Sonderegger, CEO of the Kistler Group, and James Wang, CEO of LIK.



China's automotive industry is generating heavy demand for highly automated turnkey production lines – especially if they are equipped with integrated quality monitoring systems by Kistler.



Synergies between LIK and Kistler are anticipated in the electric motor test stand segment, with software development as one of the key areas.

Media contact

Cara-Isabell Märcklin
Project Manager, External Communication
Tel.: +41 52 224 12 92
Email: cara-isabell.maercklin@kistler.com

About the Kistler Group

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

Customers in industry and scientific research benefit from Kistler's experience as a development partner, enabling them to optimize their products and processes so as to secure sustainable competitive edge. Unique sensor technology from this owner-managed Swiss corporation helps to shape future innovations not only in automotive development and industrial automation but also in many newly emerging sectors. Drawing on our extensive application expertise, and always with an absolute commitment to quality, Kistler plays a key part in the ongoing development of the latest megatrends. The focus is on issues such as electrified drive technology, autonomous driving, emission reduction and Industry 4.0.

Over 2 000 employees at 61 facilities across the globe are dedicated to the development of new solutions, and they offer application-specific services at the local level. Ever since it was founded in 1959, the Kistler Group has grown hand-in-hand with its customers and in 2017, it posted sales of CHF 422 million. About 8% of this figure is reinvested in research and technology – with the aim of delivering better results for every customer.