

Press Release

Kistler Group acquires IOS GmbH

Winterthur, 11 July 2017 – Kistler Group is taking over Aachen-based IOS GmbH, provider of MES (Manufacturing Execution System) software and hardware systems, with immediate effect. In doing so, Kistler can now offer the manufacturing industry a modular production monitoring system that covers the entire value chain, from sensors to production planning and control.

Kistler as a partner for MES competency

Monitoring and data acquisition products for the manufacturing industry are already a key part of Kistler's portfolio of integrated quality assurance solutions. The acquisition of IOS' MES software however takes Kistler to the next level. Rolf Sonderegger, the CEO of the Kistler Group, remarks: "Having our own MES solution that can seamlessly link management and production levels is strategically important to us as a solution provider. In the future, our customers will benefit from a modular all-in-one solution that provides monitoring, controlling and reporting functions across the entire value chain." The initial focus will be on applications in plastics processing. Later on Kistler's MES competency will be extended to other business areas.

Access to research as a success factor

Acquiring IOS GmbH gives Kistler access to more than 20 years' experience in the development of MES systems. "IOS is a longstanding partner; we share a number of customers and successful projects", adds Rolf Sonderegger. However, in addition to gaining valuable know-how, the acquisition also aims to establish a competence center. This center will further strengthen the close working relationship with the renowned scientific institute at the RWTH Aachen University, a well-known think tank for Industry 4.0. The expertise of the IOS team in Aachen can now be incorporated into the Kistler brand in an international context. In order to boost product development in the field of Industry 4.0 and the IoT (Internet-of-Things), Kistler is already moving forward with plans to expand the site.

Scalable all-in-one solutions for production planning and control

The takeover is an obvious win-win situation for the two companies and their customers. Kistler sensors and systems will now be able to feed relevant process and quality data into the higher-level MES system. Customers in turn will benefit from a scalable single-source solution that operates without expensive and complicated system integration. The combination of ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) data and data from Kistler's sensors generates a comprehensive overview of production processes. Rolf Sonderegger concludes: "We are focusing on maximum economic efficiency and transparency in production based on efficient data acquisition, control and documentation."

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Successful sign-off: Rolf Sonderegger (r.), the CEO of Kistler Group and Dr. Heinrich Offergeld, previous owner and Managing Director of IOS GmbH, look forward to a prosperous cooperation.

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About the Kistler Group

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 1700 employees at 58 locations worldwide are dedicated to developing new solutions and offer customized service for individual applications. Since its founding in 1959, Kistler Group has grown along with its customers, generating sales of CHF 358 million in 2016. Approximately 10 % of this went back into research and technology—and thus into achieving better results for all our customers.

Kistler Group

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