

AL-KO Damping Technology business unit sold to KW automotive

AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group focuses on core business

Kötz | Abadiano. As part of its strategic focus on its core business – the development and production of high-quality chassis and suspension components for trailers, recreational vehicles, light commercial vehicles and new mobility solutions – the AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group (“AL-KO”) has announced the sale of its damping technology division to KW automotive GmbH (“KW”), based in Fichtenberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. The Damping Technology business unit manufactures shock absorbers for heavy commercial vehicles and the passenger car aftermarket with around 250 employees at two sites in Spain and China. The financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

“AL-KO Damping Technology and KW have a longstanding business relationship. This sale now offers the possibility of a technological leap from which our AL-KO product segments will also benefit. We are delighted that the employees will find a strong new home in KW. We plan to continue to work closely with the buyer in the long term,” said Harald Hiller, President and CEO of AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group.

For over 25 years, KW has specialized in the development, manufacture and distribution of customized premium suspension solutions for both the road and racing. From springs and racing suspensions to “inox-line” coilovers in three damping variants, the company has a wide range to offer its global customers. In recent years, KW has developed over 16 different damping technologies in order to live up to its company motto of “the perfect suspension for every demand”. The acquisition of AL-KO Damping Technology is the third major transaction this year for KW, following its acquisition of off-road racing damper specialist Reiger Suspension in January and, most recently, of wheel manufacturer BBS.

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By acquiring AL-KO's damping technology business, KW is accelerating the expansion of its core business. In doing so, it benefits both from the modern AL-KO production sites in Europe and China as well as from the Damping Technology business unit's industrialization expertise. "With AL-KO, we have gained an outstanding expert in the field of damping technology," says Klaus Wohlfarth, managing partner of KW automotive GmbH. "AL-KO Damping Technology's many years of experience and manufacturing expertise enriches our core business, which we intend to expand even further. The two production plants allow us to simplify and strengthen our supply chains and increase our own value creation."

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Aiman Kaamel, Senior Vice President and head of the AL-KO Damping Technology business unit, says, "Our entry into the KW automotive group creates clear synergies and interesting development prospects. Our industrialization expertise coupled with KW automotive's high level of technological skill will help us tap into new market segments while delivering innovative products to our existing customers, which continue to include the AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group."



Caption 1: Harald Hiller (right), President and CEO AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group and Klaus Wohlfarth, founder & CEO KW automotive GmbH: AL-KO Damping Technology and KW have a longstanding business relationship. This sale now offers the possibility of a technological leap from which the AL-KO product segments will also benefit.



Caption 2: KW automotive GmbH is based in Fichtenberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

About the AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group

The AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group is a globally active technology group. As a supplier of high-quality chassis and suspension components for trailers, leisure vehicles and commercial vehicles, the group is synonymous with functional excellence, superb comfort as well as innovations to enhance driving safety. The AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group includes the 14 international brands AL-KO, Aguti, Bankside Patterson, Bradley, CBE, cmtrailer parts, E&P Hydraulics, G&S Chassis, Hume, Nordelectronica, Preston Chassis, SAFIM, SAWIKO and Winterhoff. Founded in 1931, the Group today generates sales of around 800 million US dollars with around 3,000 employees and more than 30 sites worldwide. AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group is a wholly owned subsidiary of DexKO Global, a portfolio company of KPS Capital Partners.

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About the KW automotive group

The KW automotive Group is one of the global market leaders in the individual suspension systems segment and, in addition to its main site in Fichtenberg, is active with further production sites in the Netherlands and the USA. KW has its own sales and service subsidiaries in all major global markets. The suspension range will be expanded in the USA with products for pickup trucks under the Belltech brand. With the RaceRoom, Ascher Racing and Tracktime brands, the company is also active in the fast-growing eSports segment and is one of the pioneers in virtual motorsports. KW has also been involved in classic international motorsports for years and regularly celebrates outstanding successes as a partner of the world's most renowned racing teams, most recently at the Nürburgring 24 Hours race with the victory of the Manthey Porsche GT3. The Reiger Suspension brand, which has been part of the KW automotive Group since the beginning of 2021 and is based in the Netherlands, is the leading supplier of off-road suspensions and was also able to equip the top three teams and, among others, the overall winning MINI in this year's Dakar Rally. After the successful integration of BBS, the world's leading alloy wheel manufacturer and OE supplier for numerous premium brands, in the middle of this year, the KW automotive Group has now grown to over 1,000 employees with a sales volume of over €200 million with the acquisition of the AL-KO Damping division.