

Press Information

Factory re-opening of Kverneland Group Soest GmbH on 26th-29th August 2013

General info about Kverneland Group Soest GmbH

Kverneland Group Soest GmbH is the Competence Center of Seeding Technology within the Kverneland Group. More than 280 employees are developing and producing a comprehensive product portfolio of pneumatic and mechanical seed drills, precision drills and seeding combinations for the brands Kverneland and Vicon on a surface area of 75.000 sqm.



A branch of Kverneland Group Soest with 14 employees is situated at Oestinghausen, in the neighbourhood of Soest. Here are the specialists in the production of high quality plastic parts and components supplying the main plant at Soest, other factories within the Kverneland Group and external customers.

Due to a high level of investments in Research & Development, a lot of trend-setting technologies have been launched, making Kverneland Group Soest GmbH the



manufacturer with the widest model range of seeding technologies and reaching annual net sales of around 75 m€ today.

Together with the 3 other Kverneland Group companies (Kverneland Group Deutschland, Kverneland Holding (DE) GmbH, Kverneland Group International GmbH) Kverneland Group employs more than 400 people at Soest and is, therefore, one of the leading employers in the Soest-Hellweg region.

About the investments at Kverneland Group Soest GmbH:

Further growth is expected by Kverneland Group Soest to reach a level of 100 m€ net sales in 2016. To be prepared for these additional volumes, the Kverneland Group has released the biggest investments into plant and equipment in their history. The results are a state-of-the-art KTL-painting facility (5000 sqm) and a new R & D workshop. In both areas, capacity could be more than doubled.

The history of the Soest plant:

Kverneland Group Soest GmbH was founded in 1948 as „Heinrich Weiste & Co. GmbH“, later on „Accord Landmaschinen GmbH“, at Sieningsen, a small village close to Soest. Making farmers' life easier, was the objective of Heinrich Weiste, a local farmer's son who developed the first transplanter in order to replace the exhausting manual planting procedure.

The brand name „Accord“ referred to the production method of piece work assembling machines, but also to the acoustical signal at the transplanters determining the planting rhythm.

By the end of the fifties, 50 employees were producing parts and machines with an annual net sale of 50 million Deutschmark. The small plant at Sieningsen was getting too small. Therefore, Heinrich Weiste decided to buy property in the newly developed industrial estate at Soest, the place where the factory is still located nowadays. On the area of 12.000 sqm the starting point in 1960 was an administration building. The first production hall in Soest was built in 1963 - a new innovation era started with 80 employees. In the following years the estate was extended continuously reaching a total size of 75.000 sqm in 2012.

Always aware of agricultural requirements and prospects, several new and revolutionary ideas for the agricultural industry have been developed and launched making Accord to one of the leading international manufacturers of innovative seeding technology. In the nineties the strategic decision was taken to cooperate with the Kverneland Group to



support the future growth. In 1996 Accord had been fully integrated into the Kverneland Group. Since April 2012 Kverneland Group is part of the Japanese Kubota Corporation.

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