

Track & Infrastructure

Mosdorfer Rail Ltd

Two Years of Knill Gruppe Ownership



t has now been two years since Knill Gruppe completed the acquisition of PFISTERER Rail and the business is continuing to thrive under the new ownership.

Renamed as Mosdorfer Rail, the business has adjusted to the new environment and is flourishing as a key member of this family-owned organisation with over 300 years of experience within the engineering sector. The Knill Gruppe, based in Weiz, Austria, has 29 companies in 17 different countries and specialises in products and systems for the energy, communication and mobility infrastructure. The business employs over 2,300 employees worldwide, with an annual turnover of over EUR 440 million. The business ethos is to think and act in generations and not in quarterly reports, putting focus on securing the long-term future instead

of maximising results in the short-term. Knill Gruppe began in the year 1712, forging blades in the town of Weiz, Austria. Through the years the company product portfolio has changed from blades, sickles and scythes to power distribution and transmission and technology products and today the Group can be associated with ownership of established brands such as Mosdorfer, Lorünser, Damp, Elsta, Gridpulse and now Mosdorfer Rail which is the first venture of Knill Gruppe into the railway market.

Following the acquisition of the PFISTERER Rail business, the only real change is the change of ownership. All railway manufacturing locations and personnel have been retained by the Knill Gruppe, with production facilities based in Barcelona, Spain (railway catenary systems); Sheffield, UK (Tensorex C+) and Milan, Italy (research & development) continuing



to operate with even greater focus on engineering excellence and quality. Railway products, systems and solutions previously available from PFISTERER are now part of Mosdorfer Rail portfolio and brand. However, the Mosdorfer Rail business has also been significantly strengthened by the synergies, manufacturing and engineering capability already held within Knill Gruppe. This, coupled with a business ethos centred around engineering excellence and quality, has resulted in a perfect fit!

For Mosdorfer Rail, the flagship product of the 'Tensorex C+' spring automatic tensioning device continues to grow from strength to strength. Produced in Sheffield, localised engineering and technical support is available to the UK market, and a new certified training course is available with Level 2 qualification. An inspection and repair service is also available, and handling and storage training and solutions can also be offered. To date, more than 35,000 units have been supplied worldwide since the original development of the C+ product and the business has some interesting developments soon to be launched into the market. Mosdorfer Rail is launching some significant enhancements to its tensioning range with a Tensorex spring automatic tensioning device with up to 25 percent more compensation capability. This will have significant benefits for areas with long tension length distances, and/or for markets with extremely high temperature deltas.

However, it is important to explain that Mosdorfer Rail does not only manufacture and supply Tensorex C+. As a long established international railway systems solutions provider it has supplied over 10,000 kilometres of railway catenary systems to many clients and projects constructed all over the world. A complete range of cantilever assemblies, catenary clamps and fittings are available within the standard Mosdorfer Rail product portfolio. In 2023, Mosdorfer Rail saw the award and delivery of some prestigious global projects to which we have been proud to support and supply our products and solutions. Such projects include Tren Maya in Mexico, Bandirma-Bursa-Yenisehir-Osmaneli HST and Mersin-Adana-Gaziantep in Turkey as well as Tanzania Lot 5 in Africa. For these listed projects, Mosdorfer Rail will be supplying more than 100,000 cantilever sets and 200,000 railway composite insulators, as well as other overhead line fittings, tensioning systems and safety equipment. All part of the Mosdorfer Rail portfolio. Looking to the future, Mosdorfer Rail has some very interesting product developments ongoing. Guided by the expertise of Product Portfolio Manager, Sean Corcoran, new developments and improvements in the range of railway composite insulators are the focus. Based in the Mosdorfer Rail facility in Sheffield, UK, Sean and his team of designers are supporting many global markets with their solutions, making Mosdorfer Rail one of the

world's leading suppliers of these products. In the world of railway electrification, Mosdorfer Rail has the expertise and portfolio to be a single-source supplier for railway catenary systems and solutions.

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