

Two Years of Knill Gruppe Ownership

It 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



Knill Gruppe forging technology (old)



Knill Gruppe forging technology (today)

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.

Firstly, a bit about the Knill Gruppe and its fascinating history. 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 440 MEur. 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, Almatec, Rosendahl, Nextrom and now Mosdorfer Rail (formerly PFISTERER Rail) which is the first venture of Knill Gruppe into the Railway market.

So, what does this new ownership and environment mean for Mosdorfer Rail?

Firstly, the railway business and management of the business remains the same as old with just the ownership changing. 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 result in a perfect fit!

Products and Developments – Not only Tensorex C+

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 with a new training span now located in the factory Mosdorfer Rail is able to offer complete Tensorex C+ product familiarisation and training for the industry.

As owner of the Tensorex C+ product, Mosdorfer Rail is the only source for this type of support and the training span is available now for use. An inspection and repair service is also available, and handling and storage training and solutions can also be offered.



Knill Gruppe – original forgings found in the company museum based in Weiz

To date, more than 30,000 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.

However, it is important to explain that Mosdorfer Rail do 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 into many clients and projects constructed all over the world. A complete range of Cantilever assemblies, Catenary clamps and fittings are available within standard Mosdorfer Rail portfolio of product.

In 2023, Mosdorfer Rail has seen 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-

Osmanieli 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 have 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.

All insulators are designed and tested to international norms, and independently tested at ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratories.

Mosdorfer rail composite insulators are available in a variety of configurations for systems ranging from 1.5kV DC, 3kV DC, 15 & 25kV AC. They offer tailor made solutions to meet any system requirement & specification to ensure interchangeability with existing infrastructure.

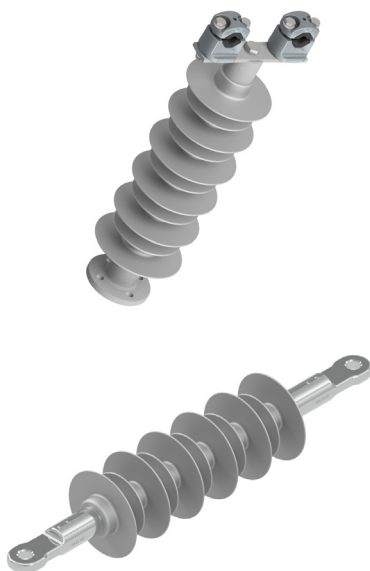
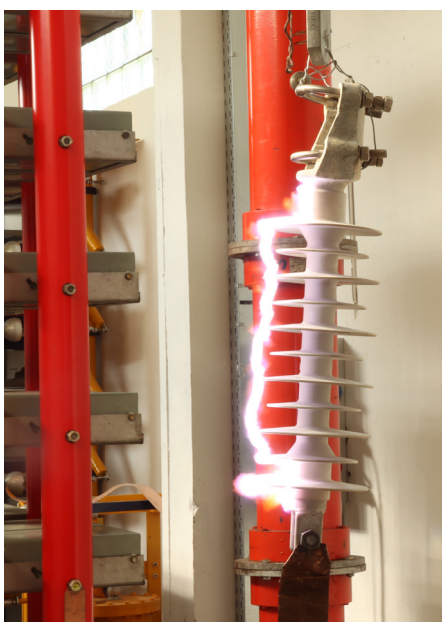
In addition, Mosdorfer Rail is just about to launch some significant enhancements to its tensioning range with a Tensorex spring automatic tensioning device with up to 25 per cent more compensation capability (Tensorex 3D). This will have significant benefits for areas with long tension length distances, and/or for markets with extremely high temperature deltas.

Also in development, Mosdorfer Rail have a balance weight tensioning assembly, which shall be completely designed and manufactured within Mosdorfer Rail and will support the global business market opportunities.

Finally, a Tensorex C+ monitoring system (TensorexSense) is undergoing live system trials and is designed to remotely monitor the status of the Tensorex C+ device, sending user defined status alerts resulting in total environmental resilience. Line tension can also be monitored. This system will support the focus on reducing the overall life cycle cost of the Tensorex C+ product, by changing the maintenance regime from scheduled maintenance to predictive maintenance. It is planned for this system to be available both for retrospective installation to existing Tensorex C+ devices, as well as the option to be installed in new devices during manufacture.

Engineering Director, Lee Brun, is overseeing these developments with his team and with a focus on innovation, quality and sustainability, Mosdorfer Rail is continuing to expand. In the world of Railway Electrification, Mosdorfer Rail have the expertise and portfolio to be a single source supplier for Railway catenary systems and solutions.

For more information, please get in touch with Mosdorfer Rail Ltd via the contact information below.



Mosdorfer Rail have a full range of Railway composite Insulators available



MOSDORFER
KNILL GRUPPE

Tel: 0114 478 8500
Email: rob.renshaw@mosdorfer.com
Visit: www.mosdorfer.com
Address: Mosdorfer Rail Ltd
2-4 Orgreave Place
Orgreave, Sheffield S13 9LU