

## Press Release

### **Kistler continues to grow and invest**

Combustion analysts from SMETEC now part of the Kistler Group

Winterthur, 8 October 2018

**The pace of growth at Kistler remains high, as current business figures show: the group of companies recorded incoming orders totaling 370 million Swiss francs at the end of September 2018; this represents an increase of 16 % compared with the same period of the previous year. The strong rate of investment will therefore continue: the SMETEC Gesellschaft für Sensor-, Motor- und Energietechnik mbH recently became part of the Kistler Group – visual combustion analysis is an excellent addition to the portfolio and strategy of the Swiss measurement technology experts.**

The growing requirements regarding cost-effectiveness and zero-emission operation of combustion engines can only be met with high-performance measurement technology. To optimize engine designs, automobile manufacturers and suppliers must rely on precise analyses of the combustion process. With the visual combustion analysis from SMETEC, processes in the combustion chamber can be visualized and statements made on the quality of the combustion process. The German company is part of the Kistler Group with immediate effect. The Swiss measurement technology experts thereby strengthen their portfolio not least of all in the area of optical measurement technology.

"The new technology complements our classic measurement technology, especially in the area of pressure sensors very well. With the acquisition of SMETEC, we expand our portfolio in an ideal manner and can offer additional options in combustion analysis. This allows us to even better meet the needs of our customers," explains Rolf Sonderegger, CEO of the Kistler Group. The goal of the acquisition is to strengthen the Group's market position in engine development and research.

#### **Optical measurement technology as further mainstay**

For SMETEC Gesellschaft für Sensor-, Motor- und Energietechnik mbH, based in the town of Erkelenz near Aachen, the merger brings great potential as well: "As a small company, we will benefit immensely from Kistler's global organization and sales structures. With such a strong partner at our side, we can fully exploit the market potential of our technology," adds Dr. Frank Wytrykus, co-founder and Managing Director of SMETEC GmbH. Together with General Manager Ralf Düsterwald, he will continue to manage the company.

The acquisition of SMETEC is part of Kistler's long-term strategy to expand optical measurement technology as a technological pillar in addition to those that already exist. The threads of this new

business field, to which the image-processing technologies of Vester Elektronik GmbH – acquired in 2017 – also contribute, run together in Karlsruhe: the *Competence Center Vision*, a research and development center dedicated to all facets of industrial image processing, has been established and will provide stimulus for innovation in the future – even across technologies and with respect to new applications.

### Company growth continues to be very dynamic

The Kistler Group exceeded the mark of 2 000 employees this year. With the two acquisitions made this year – LIK Mechanical and Electrical Technology Co., Ltd. in Shanghai and SMETEC Gesellschaft für Sensor-, Motor- und Energietechnik mbH – the Group strategically further expanded its market position, particularly in the area of optical measurement technology and automated production. At the end of September 2018, the Swiss measurement technology experts reported incoming orders of approximately 370 million Swiss francs, an increase of 16 % compared to the same period of the previous year or 12 % after adjusting for exchange rate effects.

**Images** (reprint free of charge if Kistler Group is indicated as source of image)



Rolf Sonderegger, CEO of the Kistler Group, together with the owners of SMETEC GmbH, Dr. Frank Wytrykus (left) and Ralf Düsterwald (right), is delighted with the future collaboration.



Together with Kistler, SMETEC GmbH developed a multifunction measuring spark plug: it combines cylinder pressure measurement with the advantages of visual combustion analysis in one product.

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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.

Over 2 000 employees at 61 locations worldwide are dedicated to developing new solutions and offer customized service for individual applications. Since its founding in 1959, the Kistler Group has grown along with its customers, generating sales of CHF 422 million in 2017. Approximately 8 % of this went back into research and technology — and thus into achieving better results for all our customers.