



## Press Release

# Management Change at Bekum Group: Thomas Aigner Appointed as New Chief Operating Officer

**Traismauer, October 29, 2024** – The Bekum Group, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of extrusion blow moulding machines with 300 employees across Germany, Austria, and the USA, announces an important change in its leadership structure.

Dipl.-Ing. Mr. Michael Mehnert, Managing Partner and Owner, will concentrate more on the strategic development of the Bekum Group and will strengthen the company’s operational leadership in Europe by appointing Mr. Thomas Aigner as COO. Alongside Mr. Aigner, Mr. Martin Hobl and Mr. Oliver Griesing have been appointed to the new management team in Europe, forming an experienced and highly qualified leadership group.

Mr. Thomas Aigner, MBA, joined Bekum’s management team in May 2021 as Chief Financial Officer. In his new role as COO, Mr. Aigner will expand his responsibilities to include operations, covering both manufacturing and assembly. He holds degrees in Law, an MBA, and has completed advanced studies in Accounting and Controlling. Mr. Aigner has over 20 years of experience in leadership roles in finance, controlling, and management at top-tier industrial companies in international settings.

Mr. Martin Hobl, also a member of the management team, has been appointed as a Company Officer. In his new role, he will expand his current responsibilities to include the areas of sales, marketing, and engineering. Since joining Bekum in January 2016, Mr. Hobl has been responsible for technical sales and project management. He holds a degree from a technical college with a focus on automation. His professional career began with planning, management, and sales of major international projects in the fields of paper, pulp, and biomass power plants. He later took on operational management at an international company before joining Bekum.

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Company Officer Oliver Griesing, a longstanding member of the management team, will continue in his role overseeing service and supply chain management. He joined Bekum Maschinenfabrik Traismauer GesmbH in October 2020 as Director of Global Service. Mr. Griesing holds a degree in technical business administration and an international certification as a Certified Service Manager. With extensive experience and a proven track record as an international manager in service, logistics, and production, he has further developed Bekum's digital service offerings and aligned its service portfolio to enhance customer benefits.

With this restructuring, Bekum strengthens its position in the global market and establishes the foundation to flexibly react to future market demands. Mr. Michael Mehnert's focus on strategic leadership will allow the family-owned manufacturer of extrusion blow moulding machines to ensure long-term success and continue fostering the company's innovation capabilities.

### **Commitment to Employee Involvement**

One of Mr. Aigner's first official acts was to hold a two-day strategy workshop with managers and key employees. As part of this workshop, management presented the company's vision and mission, which will serve as guidelines for the strategic direction. This was followed by an improvement workshop in which the participants were actively invited to identify potential for improvement and help shape the company's strategic path.

The positive feedback from the workshop, along with the high motivation and dedication of the participants, led to the development of a clear roadmap to implement the company's mission and vision. These actions underscore the new operational leadership's focus on sustainable growth and operational excellence.

The Bekum Group thanks all partners, customers, and employees for their trust and cooperation and looks forward to a promising future.

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**Captions:**

Caption 1: Michael Mehnert with his new management team Oliver Griesing, Martin Hobl and Thomas Aigner (from left to right)

Image sources: All images are from Bekum (unless otherwise indicated)

## About Bekum ++++++

### Pioneer and Trendsetter in Blow Moulding Technology

Founded in Berlin in 1959, Bekum Maschinenfabriken GmbH is one of the world's leading manufacturers of extrusion blow moulding machines.

Founder Gottfried Mehnert conceived the name Bekum as the acronym (Berliner Kunststoff Maschinen). In 2016 the son Michael Mehnert took over. He is responsible for the management of the company as managing director.

The company began to flourish in its founding year with the development of the world's first neck-rim calibration. Numerous innovations and patents followed, confirming that Bekum, with its innovative and customer-oriented machinery solutions, has always been ahead of its time – and remains so to this day.

When innovative and economical machinery solutions with high productivity for individual packaging requirements of hollow packaging are in demand, then Bekum, with 65 years of experience in blow moulding technology, is the first choice worldwide.

### Product Range and Applications in Food and Non-food

With future-oriented and reliable production processes and fully electric, as well as hydraulic machinery for the commercial production of blow moulded containers ranging from 5 ml to 3000 l, Bekum offers everything for plastic packaging from one source.



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### **Philosophy of the Company**

Building and maintaining long-term relationships with market partners through future-oriented, predictable company policy determine the actions of the first and second generation of the family, represented by Michael Mehnert. This strategy ensures the jobs of dedicated and experienced staff. The preservation of traditional structures, an established network of partners and far-sighted adaptation to change form the basis for continuous development and inspiration for the company in the interest of partners, customers and employees.

### **Innovation and Technology**

Process reliability, availability, efficiency and sophisticated design characterise the high standard of Bekum production lines for blow moulding. Bekum contributes the expertise that has grown based on these references, associated with various patents in blow moulding, to the fulfilment of every customer requirement.

The level of process design is key for process reliability, reproducibility, parts quality and cost-efficiency. A high-quality production line for extrusion blow moulding, consisting of machine, die and automation which is impressive in terms of speed, wear resistance, availability, process reliability and stability alike, is critical for return on investment (ROI) and the level of added value.

### **Facts and figures**

With 18,000 machines delivered and installed worldwide - about half of them still in use - the Bekum Group has achieved by far the largest production of blow moulding machines of any brand.

The Bekum Group serves approximately 100 countries around the world directly or through representatives.

Today, 350 employees work for the Bekum group worldwide at four locations in Europe Berlin & Siegburg (Germany), Traismauer (Austria) and in the US Williamston, Michigan (USA).

## Benchmark for Blow Moulding Machines

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