

PRESS RELEASE

KIESERLING GOES GLOBAL

Bremen-based traditional logistics company parts with EKB / Takeover of international forwarder A. Hegeler / Realignment brings company back in the black

Bremen, 9 January 2014 – Kieserling Holding has parted with its passive share in EKB Container Logistik GmbH & Co KG. The sale of this share, amounting to 50 per cent, to CTS Spedition GmbH, Bremen, is effective as of 1 January 2014 and related to the realignment of the Bremen-based logistics company. At the same time, Kieserling has taken over the international forwarder A. Hegeler, also based in Bremen and which specialises in air and sea freight.

Michael Müller, formerly a board member at the contract logistics provider Fiege and as of January 2013 the sole shareholder of Kieserling Holding, is using this step to continue with the Bremen-based Kieserling Group's internationalisation strategy, which was launched at the beginning of last year: "Today, our market is no longer made of regional transports but of integrated logistics services in the world's growth regions."

According to Michael Müller, these include the Middle East, China, India and North America. Along with his years-long business partner, the Indian Abdul Sameer Mohamed, the entrepreneur founded Compass Logistics International AG (CLI), headquartered in Bremen, in early 2013 – thus laying the foundation for the internationalisation offensive. "For Kieserling, it was time to take this important step", says Michael Müller, who is the sole shareholder of CLI. "Today, customers demand that their logistics providers keep pace with expansion into new global markets."

Under the umbrella of Compass Logistics International, the corporation bundles the Kieserling companies' logistics activities with the international transport and distribution network of its shareholder Compass Ocean Logistics, whose focus is on the Middle East, Asia and North America. The Group unites 35 locations in 18 countries and is active for, among others, multinational companies from the oil and gas industries, textile and furniture industries, and plant construction as well as customers from the FMCG sector, for example the beverage industry.

Within the scope of the realignment, the 50-per-cent share in EKB Container Logistik was made available. EKB provides container feeder services from European seaports to hinterland destinations. "We are parting with business segments which are not at the centre of our new strategy", explains Michael Müller, who has gained funds for strategic investments in the air and sea freight areas as a result of this move. The Kieserling Group has thus taken over the international forwarder A. Hegeler & Co. (GmbH & Co.), effective as of 1 January 2014.

Following Kieserling's struggle between 2010 and 2012 to bounce back after the loss of a major customer from the beverage industry, the logistics company began to produce positive figures again in 2013. At its headquarters in Bremen, the company invested 18 million euros last year in the construction of a second, 32,000-square-metre-large logistics centre at the GVZ – thus creating 350 new jobs. The Kieserling Logistik Centrum 2 has been in operation for a few weeks now.

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