



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Bavaria's Premier, Dr. Markus Söder, visits KRAIBURG Holding**

KRAIBURG divisions present extensive range of products at in-house trade fair

**On Wednesday, February 12, 2020, KRAIBURG Holding GmbH & Co. KG provided the platform for a meeting between the Association for the "Mühldorf University of Applied Sciences" and the Research Center for Bio-based Materials (ZBM) that is being implemented in Waldkraiburg. Premier Dr. Markus Söder had taken time to personally discuss ideas relating to this project with all the parties involved in Waldkraiburg. Numerous guests, including Georg Huber (District Administrator of Mühldorf am Inn), Robert Pöttsch (Mayor of Waldkraiburg) and Marianne Zollner (Mayor of Mühldorf am Inn) had accepted an invitation from Dr. Marcel Huber (former Minister of State in Bavaria) to attend the meeting and subsequent press conference at KRAIBURG Holding in Waldkraiburg.**

"Friedrich Schmidt laid the foundation stone of KRAIBURG in 1947. But that's not why we're here today, I'm afraid," said Daniela Schmidt-Kuttner, managing partner of KRAIBURG Holding, opening the event at 10 a.m. and cordially welcoming the guests. She presented the Premier with a glass carafe filled with KRAIBURG Pure, and with water glasses engraved with the KRAIBURG logo. KRAIBURG Pure is one of the company's latest products – a generation of compounds for applications involving contact with drinking water. He was also presented with the recently published anniversary volume, "50 Jahre aktuell," to remind him of the visit. "Aktuell" is the in-house magazine for employees of the KRAIBURG Group, which has been published continuously since January 1970.

Ms. Schmidt-Kuttner mentioned the numerous products made by the different KRAIBURG companies, which were on exhibition at an in-house trade fair to rouse the guests' interest and curiosity and encourage them to accept Ms. Schmidt-Kuttner's cordial invitation to return to KRAIBURG. In his welcoming speech, Mr. Söder emphasized how important family companies like KRAIBURG are, explaining his own family associations in connection with this. His father was a master bricklayer and his wife is from a family that runs a mechanical engineering company. He said he was eagerly looking forward to seeing the products in the exhibition.

No sooner said than done: Ms. Schmidt-Kuttner then presented the many different KRAIBURG products on a tour of the in-house exhibition. They ranged from various rubber polymers, silicone mixtures, calender plates, feed strips and granules through to end products with applications made of thermoplastic elastomers. The Premier also showed strong interest in a tire that can be recycled into granules after its useful life is over. The resulting high-quality mixture can subsequently be used as a raw material for producing durable plates for railroad crossings, which were also on display at the in-house exhibition.

After the tour, Mr. Söder took the floor. He explained his reasons for coming: it was an “important and major day,” and he was expecting the Center for Bio-based Materials (ZBM) in Waldkraiburg to bring the district a considerable technology boost. In this context, environmental awareness and sustainability were important factors – factors that KRAIBURG is also constantly keeping an eye on. The amount of used rubber that the company group recycles every year, for example, almost equals the amount of new rubber mixtures that it puts on the market. This “waste-free” production – in which waste materials can be returned into the materials cycle – results in the conservation of raw material resources and energy resources and ultimately leads to a positive environmental balance.

This was followed by a welcoming speech by former Minister of State Huber, who emphasized that the Premier’s visit underlined how important the project was for the Free State of Bavaria. Afterwards, Mr. Söder met with just a few representatives from the fields of business, education, local politics and from the Association for the Mühldorf University of Applied Sciences, who had an opportunity to discuss and clarify issues. The results were later summarized during a press conference.

In his concluding speech, Mr. Söder emphasized the importance of supporting science in rural areas as well. It strengthens local structures, makes the region more attractive to young people, and gives fresh impetus to the business sector and to small and medium-sized enterprises. At the end of the event, Mr. Söder clearly stated his enthusiasm for the project, which is also fully supported by the Free State of Bavaria. That was his meta-message. He wished both the district and the town all the best for the project, adding that it will only become a reality if everyone pulls together to start tackling it right away.



Dr. Markus Söder (left) had a look at the numerous products of the KRAIBURG group together with the managing partners Maximilian Westhoff (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) and Daniela Schmidt-Kuttner (right)

(Photo: Bayerische Staatskanzlei)