Press Release

# No need for compulsory redundancies at Koenig & Bauer in Stuttgart

* Pragmatic and constructive agreement
* Socially cushioned personnel adjustments without compulsory redundancies
* Improved order situation in the second half of the year

Stuttgart, 13.07.2021
Through constructive cooperation with employee representatives, Koenig & Bauer has been able to implement economically unavoidable cost optimisation measures at Stuttgart-based subsidiary Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint without resorting to compulsory redundancies. Global economic changes and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic had led to a collapse in sales for the particularly export-oriented company in 2020.

Job reductions were kept to a minimum through a series of measures designed to enable a socially cushioned transition. Most importantly, the introduction of a flexible system to reduce working hours (employment based on collective agreements with appropriate individual adjustments) avoided a situation in which key employees with priceless know-how would have left the company. The agreement gives the company the reassuring certainty that it can react flexibly to short-term turnover fluctuations, while at the same time safeguarding the customary high quality of customer support.

This arrangement was the outcome of countless constructive discussions between management representatives, the trade union IG Metall and the works council. Everyone involved contributed to this result on the basis of respectful, appreciative and open-minded negotiation. Managing director Ralf Hipp says: “By working together and not against each other, we have laid the foundations for a successful and promising future.” Board management spokesman Dr. Andreas Pleßke adds: “COVID-19 is a purely external factor, and so flexibility, common sense and a readiness to compromise were important guidelines for us going into the talks.”

A further indicator for the maximum commitment to jobs is the announcement that all trainees who complete their training this year will receive regular employment contracts. In this way, Koenig & Bauer continues to offer young people interesting career prospects even in economically turbulent times.

“After a difficult first half of the year, we are seeing improvement in the order situation and the global economy is coming back to life. In June, we recorded one of the best figures for incoming orders in the company’s history. This enables us to approach the future with confidence and optimism,” says managing director Pekka Hobbeling.

**Photo:**The fully automatic high-performance metal decorating press MetalStar 3 is in use all over the world. Metal packaging is considered to be especially sustainable.

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#### About Koenig & Bauer

Koenig & Bauer is the oldest printing press manufacturer in the world with the broadest product range in the industry. For more than 200 years, the company has been supporting printers with innovative technology, tailor-made processes and a wide array of services. The portfolio ranges from banknotes, board, film, metal and glass packaging, and includes book, display, coding, decor, magazine, advertising and newspaper printing. Sheetfed and webfed offset and flexo printing, waterless offset, intaglio, simultaneous perfecting and screen printing or digital inkjet – Koenig & Bauer is at home in virtually all printing processes and is the market leader in many of them. In the financial year 2020, the approximately 5,593 highly qualified employees worldwide generated annual sales of €1.029 billion.

Further information can be found at [www.metalprint.koenig-bauer.com](http://www.metalprint.koenig-bauer.com)
 www.koenig-bauer.com