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KIEFEL: New production plant undergoing testing for use in automotive sector promises to reduce startup times on customer's premises.

The Freilassing (Germany)-based company KIEFEL GmbH, has expanded its existing test-lab facilities for use in the manufacture of automotive interior-trim components. New items being tested include an inline thermoforming unit designed to permit an identical process as to series production.

This gives the customer from the car industry access to a wide and up-to-date range of manufacturing techniques for use in the fabrication of door linings, instrument panels, consoles, etc., which embrace all the aspects of technology available from KIEFEL.

One item worthy of special mention in this respect is the company's new inline vacuum-forming unit. The use of this machine permits the full initial startup of new tools using KIEFEL's existing series-production conditions and original cycle-times.

The tool's overall initial-startup phase can thus be optimised with respect to both time and cost. Initial startup times on the customer's premises, and therefore unwanted breaks in operation, are reduced to a minimum.

With its two-way rotating bottom platten, four-way rotating top platten, and specially equipped with KIEFEL's patented split chain-guide designed to handle the lengthwise and crosswise strain on the material, this machine meets customers' most exacting specifications with respect to moulding and lamination technology. The split chain-guide permits material savings of up to 20%.

This system is also available to customers who do not intend to order a new machine from KIEFEL.

KIEFEL is a world leader when it comes to the design and manufacture of machines used to process plastic foil materials. The company offers core expertise in the fields of moulding and joining technology. As a supplier to reputable manufacturers in various sectors, Kiefel GmbH services customers in the automotive, medical technology, refrigeration and packaging industries.

The head office of KIEFEL GmbH is in Freilassing/Germany. The company also runs its own network of sales and service centres in the United States, France, the Netherlands, Russia, China and Brazil, and is represented by sales partners in more than 60 countries worldwide.

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Kiefel GmbH is a member of the German Brückner Group, a worldwide leading supplier of plastics machinery with some 1,000 employees. Brückner is the world market leader in the field of film stretching lines and also provides equipment for the manufacture of cast film and sheet as well as service & upgrading products.