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20th anniversary of Kolbenschmidt Shanghai Piston Booming business requires new capacities

Chinese piston specialist Kolbenschmidt Shanghai Piston Co., Ltd. (KSSP) is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017. Founded as a joint venture in August 1997 between SAIC Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation and world-wide operating piston producer KS Kolbenschmidt (Rheinmetall Automotive/ Germany), KSSP has over the years built up a constantly expanding market position as a leading tier-one automotive component manufacturer in China.

After starting in downtown Shanghai the company moved to Production Zone in Shanghai Jiading District in 2011. KSSP meanwhile has become the largest production site in Kolbenschmidt's global organization, and is planning to market 24 million units in 2017. With a workforce of 1,200 KSSP is actually realizing sales of 220 MioEUR. According to the continuing market development in China, KSSP is investing in a new plant in Chongqing/ China, which these days will be starting its production activities.

KSSP is leveraging on the most advanced technologies from Kolbenschmidt's experienced global development teams and the rich resources in China. Against the background of the increasing market for battery electric vehicles, the company is strengthening its position by fine-tuning its products in the direction of high-tech, light-weight, low-consumption and low-emission.

Modern pistons play a major role in the running efficiency of the engine and help promote efforts toward a greener impact. For product and process development KSSP is offering to its customers a complete local tech-center with native speaking specialists including state-of-the-art laboratories.

This advanced technical position is underlined through a global strategic alliance for the sales, engineering and development of power cylinder systems agreed by KS Kolbenschmidt with Japan's piston ring producer Riken. Since 2016 the partners are also running a Wuhan based joint venture (Chinese province Hubei) for the production of piston rings. By means of this cooperation KSSP is able to provide tailor-made piston system assemblies for light and heavy-duty engines for automotive and industrial applications.

KSSP maintains close cooperation with its global customers though mainly focusing on the most competitive OEMs in China including for instance SAIC Volkswagen, FAW-Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, SAIC General Motors, Jaguar Land Rover China, Changan Ford.