

Issue 01/2022

The magazine of the Kern Group

best of kern



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Milestones: A look back into the history of Kern

02. kernMail

Kern 3200 *flash* sales release

kern 3200 *flash*

03. kernTerminal

Major kernTerminal projects

Editorial

75 YEARS
1947-2022



Dear readers,

For 75 years, customers from all over the world have trusted in the high performance and reliability of the Kern company.

The company's development is solid. We have always endeavoured to operate the business efficiently and have achieved this with the cooperation of the management, the project managers and employees.

We can confidently state that the Kern Group stands for

- independence as a family business
- high solution and system competence
- partnership-based customer and market proximity

So we can continue to guarantee this high level of product and performance in the coming years, we are constantly striving to incorporate the latest technological advances into our products. Let us hope that the economic momentum does not slow down too much and that we do not face overly difficult times. This is true for the whole industrial sector with decreasing production and

increasing prices, and concerns around the supply chain.

At this point I would like to thank all those who support us in this partnership.

Uli Kern

President and Managing Director



Content

Publication frequency:

The magazine “best of kern” is published twice a year and is sent free of charge to customers, interested parties and employees of the Kern Group.

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Editing & Design:

Kern Group Marketing

Layout: G&B, Langnau

Print: Mikro + Repro AG,

Dättwil



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“best of kern” also digital



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75 years of Kern

Journey through Kern Time

75 YEARS
1947-2022

Retrospective...

Kern AG can look back on 75 years of high-level development in technology. Since its foundation by Marc Kern in 1947, Kern AG has continued to develop. Based in Konolfingen, Bern, the Swiss company quickly became well-known beyond the country's borders.

The passion for technology has a long tradition at Kern. From mechanics to supported mech-

anisms with electronics and finally steering the solutions by means of software. Be it optical reading and online processing in the 1960s, modular mailing systems in the 1980s, the fastest inserting system in the world in the 1990s (Kern 3000) or the development of sophisticated robot systems in the new millennium. Kern AG has always opened up new dimensions in document processing and pack-

aging. Ongoing growth and continued success were the results of this development.

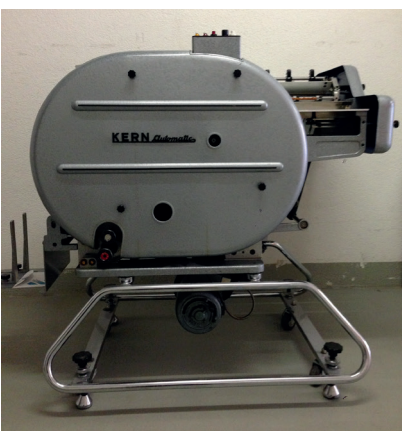
Today, the group is present in over 50 countries with its subsidiaries and partners and employs around 700 people. Kern Service is available worldwide with 450 service technicians, 365 days a year.



1947: World premiere from Kern
Construction of the first prototype of a letter folding and inserting machine with modern, transmission-driven machine tools.

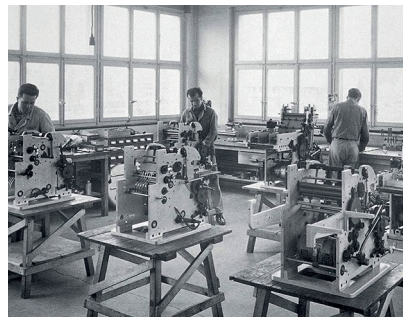


1951: First production workshop
The first building for a larger production workshop is built at Hüni-genstrasse 16 in Konolfingen. The first inserting machines are developed and produced here.



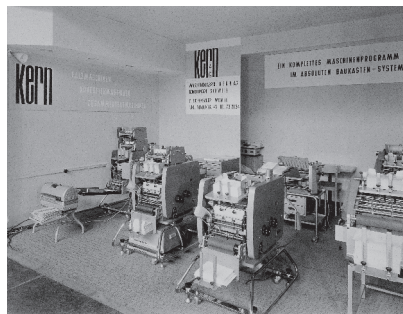
1954: KAU

Kern Automatic - the then new electronically controlled folding and inserting machine.



1960: Expansion

More than 100 Kern machines under the name KAU (Kern Automatic Universal) are already in operation in over 10 countries. The staff of the assembly department are on duty. A VW van is ready for transport.



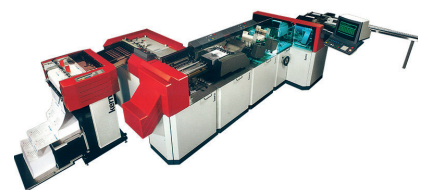
1971: Inserting system with cutter

The first system with a directly connected cutting machine and equipped with optical mark reading (OMR), for processing continuous computer forms, is produced. A new production hall with over 6'000 m² is built in Stalden. More than 100 employees work for Kern

AG. Kern presents an interesting range of machines at the IFABO in Vienna in 1971.

1984: Kern 2000

Production of the Kern 2000 starts successfully. The machine is offered as a modular system with several inlets for pilot documents and a larger number of insert stations. The world's first modular



mailing system, the Kern 2000 Multimailer, is delivered and by 1995 over 1500 such systems are successfully placed in 50 countries.

1994: Kern 3000 Megamailer

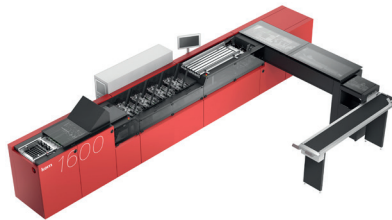
The fastest inserting system in the world at the time, with 26,000 insertions per hour, was developed and brought to market. In 2000, this system was entered in the Guinness Book of Records.





2016: Kern 1600

World premiere of the new compact Kern 1600 multi-format inserting system at Drupa 2016 in Düsseldorf: The Kern 1600 was designed for the lower to medium output range and is particularly suitable for the transactional and direct mail market as well as for lettershops.



2008: Kern 2600

The Kern 2600 will be presented at Drupa in Düsseldorf, Germany and launched at the end of the year. The Kern 2600 will gradually replace the proven Kern 2500 Multimailer.



2017: Kern PackOnTime®

Launch of the new multi-format packaging system for the production of customised corrugated shipping packages in real time.



2014: Kern Open House

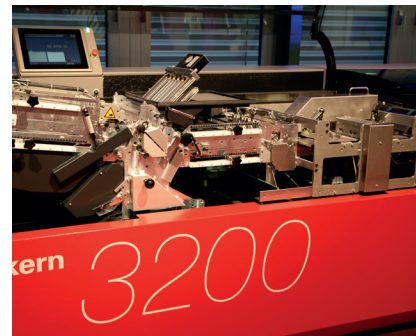
Great interest and two world premieres at the first Kern Open House in September. Over 1200 visitors came to Münsingen for the international event. The Kern 3600 and Kern 5000 Inserting Systems were presented to the public for the first time.

2020: Award for PackOnTime

Award "LogiMAT BEST PRODUCT 2020" in the category "Identification, packaging and loading technology, load securing".

2021: The next generation of inserting technology

Kern is entering the next generation of inserting technology with the new Kern 3200. In response to customer needs, Kern has developed a multi-format inserting system that meets the future requirements of the inserting sector. The Kern 3200 is characterised by maximum flexibility, fast change-over, very high reliability and simple, intuitive operation.



2022: 75 years of Kern and a new inserting platform

The platform concept provides customers with two different performance classes of inserting solutions. The inserting systems were developed for both the transactional market and the demanding direct marketing sector. These systems are suitable for multiple formats - the simple and fast automatic envelope change is standard.



Review of the Live Streaming Event

On 22.2.22 the new Kern 3200 modular multi-format inserting system was in front of the camera at the facility in Konolfingen/Switzerland.

Kern's latest development was demonstrated to numerous interested parties from all over the world. The system presented will

then be installed at Swiss Post Solutions AG for a field test. The new functions of the system, such as speed control and preventive error handling, are a great added value for all our customers to increase production efficiency.

Over the past few months, the specialists at Kern AG have not only developed a new inserting system, but have also created a fundamentally new concept. With

the Kern 1600 and Kern 3200, a platform is now available that can be individually adapted to any customer requirements and yet has a highly standardised design. This solution guarantees the customer maximum flexibility, compatibility and investment protection. The operation of the systems is standardised and allows a highly flexible use of the operators without a lot of training.



Sales Team: Daniel Wenger, Beat Dietsch, Stephan Zaugg, Dominik Gehrig

Kern inserting platform



Efficiency in a new dimension

Depending on the requirements, the optimum system for the customer with the ideal price-performance ratio can be put together from the various basic modules.

Simple and fast automatic format change is the standard. Modularity and productivity are the top priorities.



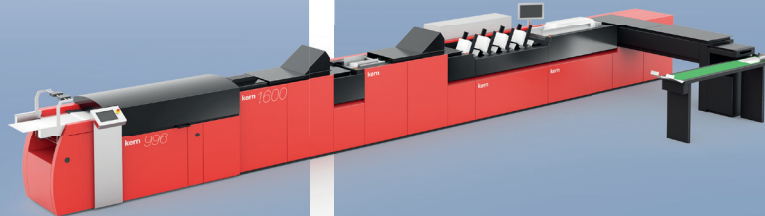
Kern 1600 *flex*



Kern 1600 *fast*



Kern 3200



System platf

Inserting platform



10 force

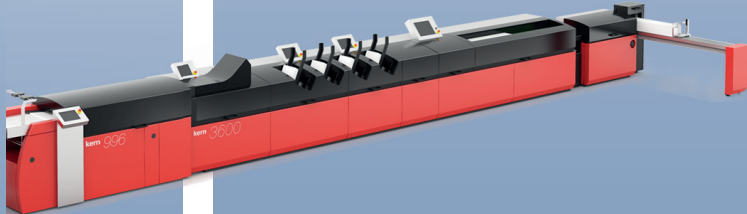
Speed upgrade



Kern 3200 *flash*



Kern 3600



form Sphera



Kern «goes green».

Ecologically clean driving to the customers.

Electric vehicles for field service employees are now part of Kern AG's company car fleet. Sustainability is becoming increasingly important. Kern AG will operate an environmental management system certified according to DIN ISO 14001 from 2022. The focus is on the company's activities and performance with regard to sustainable development.

The latest achievement of Kern AG is the electric vehicles in the fleet. The audit will take place in May 2022. The dark blue VW ID.4 is branded with the company logo and is purely electric. It is intended for journeys to customers throughout Switzerland. A separate charging station for the electric cars at

the plant in Stalden ensures the power supply.

Kern AG takes responsibility for the future. Every day, the company's field service personnel have to make numerous journeys to customers in Switzerland. What could be better than a car that is not only CO2-free, but also completely climate-neutral thanks to electricity from renewable energy sources? The environment is protected, and fuel costs are also saved.

The battery allows distances of up to 400 kilometres per charge - absolutely sufficient for operations throughout Switzerland. This is how Kern AG contributes to sustainable development and climate protection.



PackOnTime 2box was a finalist in the Swiss Technology Award

Around sixty start-ups, established companies and educational and research institutions applied for the Swiss Technology Award 2021. Kern AG was one of the nine finalists.

On 18 November 2021, Kern AG was able to present the PackOnTime 2box packaging system in the "Innovation Leaders" category to a top-class audience in Basel at the Swiss Innovation Forum 2021. The Swiss Technology Award is the most important award for innovation and technology transfer in Switzerland. Every year, the prize is awarded to the most outstanding technology-based innovations and developments.

Experiencing Kern Systems Live

Kern User Forum in September 2022 in Düsseldorf



From 13 to 15 September 2022, Kern is inviting visitors to the User Forum in Düsseldorf. With the new Kern 3200 Multiformat Inserting System, the Kern 1600 Multiformat Inserter, the Kern 3600 High-Performance Inserting System, the innovative PackOnTime 2box packaging system and a City Terminal from the 24/7 Smart Terminal series, the entire range of the Kern portfolio will be presented.

“We are pleased that we can finally invite visitors to an in-person event again and show all the current systems and solutions in action,” says Kern GmbH Managing Director Rainer Rindfleisch talking about the User Forum in September.

All systems will be presented live at two reference customers in Düsseldorf city centre. This way, the user forum offers the unique opportunity to get to know the latest systems from the business segments of inserting, packaging and receiving.

Over three consecutive days, the respective daily events take place with an identical schedule: After the welcome by owner Uli Kern and Rainer Rindfleisch, Kern AG’s Area Manager Daniel Wenger will give a presentation on *kernMail*. The event will continue with a presentation on *kernPack* by Michael Horch (Area Manager Kern GmbH/Head of Business Unit *kernPack*). Sybille Stöckle-Luschitz (Head of Corporate Strategy Kern GmbH) will talk about the Kern terminals, and Ricardo Posocco

Malleiro, Service Manager of Kern GmbH, will focus on Kern Service.

Register

kerngbh.de



After lunch, the tour will depart for the data centre of the Düsseldorf financial administration, where a Kern 1600 and the PackOnTime 2box system will be presented. The next stop is at ITERGO Informationstechnologie GmbH, where a Kern 3200, a Kern 3600 and a City Terminal will be shown in operation. The day will start and end at the venue, Gut Dyckhof in Meerbusch-Büderich.



Citizen Service in Banks Branches

Forming a symbiotic relationship

With Nuremberg, Siegburg and Gross-Umstadt, three municipalities have already set up ID card terminals for their digital citizen service in branches of the respective savings banks, with Bensheim soon to follow as the fourth.

The four municipalities use the central and easily accessible lo-

cations of the savings banks. The citizens can then take care of the additional municipal services directly in the branches.

Behind the ID terminals are the 24/7 Smart Terminals from Kern. With these, municipal services are digitised in a citizen-friendly way. The issuing terminal function is similar to a parcel station:

anyone who wants to pick up their document such as an ID card or passport at the terminal indicates this when applying, along with personal data such as email address and fingerprint, which are recorded in a web-based system. When the identity document is ready to be collected, the system generates automatically a booking number



Savings Bank City of Siegburg Branch



and activates an email. To identify themselves when picking up the badge, citizens then enter a code sent to them.

In addition, the terminal reads the fingerprint before the output tray containing the document is released. This technically innovative service thus meets the highest security standards.

The services provided by the municipality literally meet the needs of the citizens, which means shorter distances and less waiting time. For the municipalities, this symbiosis is ideal because they can draw on the existing infrastructure in the

branches and the Savings Bank can also offer its customers an additional service.

Siegburg's mayor Stefan Rosemann sees this as another step towards even more administrative quality: "With this we are offering citizens a convenient way to pick up their ID documents with a terminal that is accessible almost around the clock.

Once again, the city proves to be service-oriented, but at the same time open to new, digital solutions. Especially in the current times of Coronavirus, when contacts are to be prevented, this is an important additional service offer."

Sparkassen

520 companies, 16,500 business locations and almost 300,000 employees - they are all decisive for the high quality and success of the Savings Banks Finance Group. Just as important: the decentralised structure of the Savings Banks and their alliance partners.



Smart Terminals installed at Pharmagest

The PHARMAGEST Group has competences in all high-tech IT professions related to healthcare and related professions: Pharmacy IT, e-health solutions, laboratory solutions, solutions for patients, etc.

According to French law, medicines cannot be purchased without an authorisation from the pharmacist. If the required medication is not in stock at the respective pharmacy, or if it has to be produced first, the customer has to pick up the medication at a later time. By using a parcel pick-up station, queues can be avoided and the customer can pick up their order regardless of time.

PHARMAGEST's terminal installation requirements:

- Possibility for indoor or outdoor installation
- Compartment sizes suitable for pharmaceutical products
- A small stand area due to the cost per square metre in pharmacies.
- Package management directly from LGO (pharmacy management software)
- Pharmagest wanted their software to generate its own pin code for the collection of parcels. Parcel lockers should be able to handle these pin codes.
- Some medicines must be stored at certain tempera-



tures. If the temperature conditions cannot be maintained, the locker should immediately notify Pharmagest's Software.

- Specific hardware designed for medicines and pharmaceutical products (additional columns can be added to this main module).

What were the challenges?

The implementation of the Kern solution should take place without any major impact on ongoing operations as well as transparently for both companies involved, and there should be a simple and prob-

lem-free integration into the IT information system.

In addition, the use of automated Kern Smart Terminals in the Pharmagest network should be promoted.

Collaborating on the development of a customised locker model that can be used in Pharmagest pharmacies in terms of both hardware and software.

Kern's structure makes it possible to work together on projects for parcel pick-up stations throughout France and even abroad.

PHARMAGEST

PHARMAGEST is majority owned by the Welcoop Co-operative. The Welcoop Co-operative is a unique health stakeholder that, thanks to pharmacies as true health coordinators, brings together all the expertise to be closer to the patient. All health professionals around the patient are to be networked and coordinated.





Emmental region - the hill country

The Emmental comprises the catchment areas of the Emme and Ilfis rivers from Hohgant to Burgdorf and the Lower Emmental from Burgdorf to the Solothurn cantonal border.

In the Emmental, the landscape lies between lush rolling hills, rugged valleys and wide meadows.

From the legendary Emmental cheese, to ham or the Gault&Mil-lau menu, all kinds of delightful Emmental regional specialities and products can be enjoyed.

National museums such as the Franz Gertsch Museum, the Zither Museum or the Folk Culture Museum in the Kornhaus have their place in Emmental, as do regional exhibitions in the "Chüechlihus" or the Kulturmühle. Castles, wooden bridges, the Show Dairy,

theme trails, alphorn makers and idyllic farms epitomise the area. Not forgetting of course, the great thinker and poet, Jeremias Gotthelf, whose works were influenced by both his faith and his Bernese roots .

Whether it's a day trip or a holiday for a few days, you certainly won't get bored in the Emmental. Hiking, panning for gold, biking, riding or pottery - hardly a wish will remain unfulfilled. emmental.ch



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