



Titel: K & B

Duration: 4'00''

Insert: Author: Dorit Schatz
Camera: Gunther Müller
Cut: Birgit Schellbach

Josef Kappenberger sen

Svatopluk Perina - Czech Republic K & B director

Josef Kappenberger jun

Content:

Many know the initials K and B, only few, however, know how many things this company with headquarters in Cham, Upper Palatinate, has to offer. Most people associate it with specialized shops, called „Expert“. 3,600 of small and big stores can be found all over Europe. The one in Cham is one of the four stores that K & B still lead themselves. They act as wholesalers for the other stores and deliver them equipment and logistics, determine publicity and common designs.

Text:



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However, Kappenberger and Braun also produce electric systems – from power supply systems and object illumination to telecommunications. Among its customers are car producers, radio stations, airports, hospitals and cinemas to name but a few sectors. They have 750 employers in Germany, 150 of which are in training.

The company was founded in Cham in 1960, and quickly became market leader in various sectors. Josef Kappenberger follows in his father's footsteps: modest and down to earth, in his Upper Palatinate style, even if the company, in the meantime, operates on a global stage, not only as far as trade is concerned but also in sections like software solutions, control and measurement engineering. Shortly after it was possible to go to the Czech Republic, K.& B. went there. Back then, Josef Kappenberger senior, one of the co-founders, had seen it rather as a symbolic step to overcome borders and sees it as a lucky hit now.

Quota: Josef Kappenberger sen.

To the effect: For 40 years we had only been able to trade with the West and we always had the border in our back, and that is why we crossed the border as soon as it was possible. These were really difficult times but for the last three years things have been improving.

.. three years...

Twice or thrice a week Mr. Kappenberger junior goes to Pilsen or Prague, past “Expert” stocks and stores. They employ more than 300 people in the capital and 150 locals in Pilsen. And this public limited company has been directed by Mr. Perina since 1991.

The partners have high hopes regarding the EU enlargement to the East.



QUOTE Svatopluk Perina - Czech Republic K & B director

To the effect: ... The good thing about the enlargement is that we Czechs can also do business in Germany...

QUOTE to Josef Kappenberger jun.
... build...

To the effect: We remain committed and make plans, we are well prepared for the enlargement....

The director, Mr. Perina, immediately starts to unroll the plans for new orders, the reconstructions of historical monuments, for that is Kappenberger's and Braun's speciality. Work for years to come, in a country in which numerous things wait to be modernized.