



TECHNOLOGY THAT LEADS

Kiekert AG Corporate Information

A company overview

Number of employees:	5,300
Locations:	10 locations in 10 countries, including 8 R&D centers
Market share:	21%
Founded in:	1857
Patents:	more than 2,500
Board:	Jérôme Debreu, CEO & CFO
Product portfolio:	Locking systems (side-door latches, latch modules, rear compartment and front latches), a broad range of actuators for side doors, sliding doors, decklids and various interiors solutions for the global automotive industry



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Kiekert AG - world market leader for automotive locking systems

Corporate profile and fact sheet



Kiekert AG, world market leader for automotive locking systems, has been a success story since the company was founded in 1857. Kiekert headquartered in Heiligenhaus, Germany, supplies the leading vehicle makers with its innovative latch technologies. With 5,300 employees working at ten locations in ten countries, including eight R&D centers, Kiekert develops, produces and sells various customer solutions. The product portfolio includes locking systems, such as side-door latches, latch modules, rear compartment and front latches and a broad range of actuators for side doors, sliding doors, decklids and various interiors solutions. Kiekert's core product – the side door latch – covers the full range of functions. These include groundbreaking inventions like central locking, electromechanical power closing, electrical child safety and Active Inertia. As a driver of innovation with more than 2,500 patents, the market leader in locking systems is one of the leading development partners to the global automakers. Kiekert supplies more the 100 automobile customers worldwide. The special focus on product development is reflected in a state-of-the-art product lineup in which more than one third of the products are less than three years old. The driver for Kiekert's innovative spirit, quality awareness and ongoing international growth has always been the customer – a success factor that the leading automotive supplier will continue to apply going forward. Kiekert is an essential, strategic partner for automakers on all continents, as well as a modern and dependable employer for its employees.



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Global presence enables worldwide development and production from a single source

Since its foundation in 1857, **Heiligenhaus, Germany** has been the corporate headquarters and center of expertise for Kiekert's global activities. The largest production facility in the Kiekert Group was founded in 1993 in **Prelouc, Czech Republic** and expanded in 2001 with a development center. Due to growing demand for the automotive supplier's locking system specialties, Kiekert has expanded its Czech plant by a further production building and developed it into the world's largest facility in the field of locking system solutions. The plant in **Wixom, USA** has been supporting the company's customers in North and South America since 1994 as a central sales and innovation facility. Kiekert in **Puebla, Mexico** has been the production center for the NAFTA region since 1995. In order to establish a leading position in the booming Asian automotive market, too, and to have a local presence for its customers there, Kiekert has been operating a development and production center in **Changshu, China** since 2008. In 2014, Kiekert has established a location in **Naberezhnye Chelny, Russia**. The acquisition of another Chinese production plant in 2015 in **Zhengzhou, China** and also the opening of the Joint Venture production site in **Hwaseong-si, Korea**, in 2017, are in line with the strategic market position of Kiekert, and the steady expansion of its presence in Asia. At the end of 2017, a new development site was established in **Lamone, Switzerland**, specializing in electronic concepts and corresponding automotive product solutions.

In its more than 160-year history, the technology company has so far developed and produced well 2 billion latches for the international automotive industry. Thanks to its global presence, Kiekert has built up a market share of 21 percent over the years and is now the world market leader in the field of automotive side-door latches.



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The highest levels of quality – Kiekert’s in-house testing and development centers



Kiekert invests continuously in research and development to ensure that its in-house equipment and processes meet the very latest standards. The extensive testing facilities and methods are among the most modern in the automotive supply industry and ensure the development and production of tailor-made locking systems solutions to the very highest technical standards. Kiekert’s prototypes undergo extreme lifecycle endurance tests on specially developed and manufactured test stands. Only once they have fulfilled strict safety and quality requirements are they approved for production. In the course of their development, all products must undergo countless load tests that replicate vehicle duty in the world’s most diverse regions. In Heiligenhaus, Germany, Kiekert has one of the foremost acoustic labs in the automotive supplier industry. Every day, a large team of engineers works to ensure that quality is conveyed to the user simply by the satisfying sound made by the door closing. The lab is equipped with psycho-acoustic measurement facilities, a drive-in acoustic chamber, high-speed cameras and unique analysis technology that enable tailor-made simulation of driving movements in accordance with the needs and wishes of the customers. With its in-house international testing and development centers, Kiekert ensures a level of product quality that meets the very highest demands.

These quality standards apply at every Kiekert location and are assured with the help of global production processes and common standards. Production processes developed in-house deliver the greatest possible efficiency and flexibility. Quality and reliability are the bases of maximum comfort and safety for the driver.



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The successful combination of economy and ecology

Kiekert's leading competence in the definition, development and production of locking systems assures state-of-the-art technologies for the automotive industry. Work focuses consistently on the reduction of cost and weight combined with increasing quality. The environmental awareness that prevails within the company ensures that all employees systematically seek environmentally compatible solutions in the development and production of products. The customer objective to reduce CO₂ emissions is consistently pursued through intelligent material selection and continuous product optimization. Kiekert is already supplying parts for the first high-volume products in the electric vehicle segment.



Dedicated employees are the source of success

Over our more than 160-year company history, Kiekert has consolidated its number-one position in the field of automotive locking system technologies. The source of this corporate success was, is and will continue to be Kiekert's employees. Across the world, around 450 engineers work on the development of innovative technologies and their transfer into marketable products to supply customers with high-quality locking system technologies. They have been setting the benchmarks for the automotive industry for years and consistently confirm Kiekert's technological leadership. The company's interdisciplinary teams work together to global standards. They guarantee worldwide development, procurement and production of innovative locking system solutions from a single source – for more comfort, safety and economy.

The Kiekert Group is the world market leader for automotive locking systems with a market share of 21 %. The Group and the joint ventures employ around 5,300 people at 10 locations in 10 countries including 8 R&D centers. The Group supplies over 100 automotive customers. The company's success story began in 1857 with headquarters in Heiligenhaus, Germany. Kiekert is an indispensable strategic partner for automotive manufacturers on all continents as well as a modern and reliable employer.