



**PRESS RELEASE
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American Kuhne, Inc. Announces New Blown Film Initiative and the Appointment of Tom Helming as Vice President, Blown Film Systems

(American Kuhne, Inc., Ashaway RI January 2, 2012)... American Kuhne is pleased to announce an exciting new initiative to offer Kuhne GmbH blown film technology and equipment to the North American marketplace.

American Kuhne was founded January 1997 in partnership with Kuhne GmbH Germany. Since that time, American Kuhne with the financial backing of Kuhne GmbH, has been designing and supplying superior screws and extruders for the North American market. Over the years American Kuhne has become a leading provider of extruders and systems in all single screw extrusion markets. With this experience, the company is poised to offer the marketplace advanced blown film technology. All blown film equipment will be designed and manufactured in the Kuhne Group headquarters in St. Augustin, Germany. American Kuhne will provide sales, service, and spare parts for the installed and commissioned equipment operating in North America, out of their headquarters in Ashaway, Rhode Island.

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“The significant technical developments in Blown Film equipment from Kuhne GmbH perfectly complements our existing product offering,” states Bill Kramer, President of American Kuhne. “Given American Kuhne’s growth and success over the years, we felt the time was right to bring this leading technology to the North American market. Offering this proven technology from our German partner is a natural evolution of our company. We are well-established, providing high performance barrier screws and extruders to the blown film market for the past 15 years, and we will provide the highest level of support our customers have grown to expect from us.”

In support of this effort, American Kuhne has hired Mr. Tom Helming as the Vice President of Blown Film Systems. With extensive blown film and converting experience, Mr. Helming spent over 25 years at Gloucester Engineering Company in both product and sales management positions. As Vice President, Blown Film Systems, he is responsible for all business development activities for Kuhne’s blown film technology in North America.

“Kuhne offers a number of significant technical developments that are ideal for the North American Market. Our turn-key blown film system technology offers processors another credible choice in the marketplace,” said Peter Kuhne, President of Kuhne GmbH. “Kuhne GmbH has been making tremendous advancements in three key growth areas of blown film; (1) conventional co-extruded films, (2) triple bubble systems for the production of biaxially oriented films, and (3) water-quenched, multi-layer technology specialty film systems. With our leading edge technology and our significant and growing market share in Europe, we feel this is the right time to enter the North American market.”



More About Kuhne Blown Film Offerings: Three Advanced Line Concepts

The blown film division of the Kuhne Group specializes in the construction of blown film lines for standard and special applications. The division's portfolio is comprised of three line concepts called Smart Bubble®, CoolBubble® and Triple Bubble®, which offer the ideal solution for every application.

- **SmartBubble:** Complete systems for the production of monolayer and multilayer films up to 11 layers for a wide variety of demanding applications including HMWHDPE films, stretch hoods, lamination films, stretch and shrink films, food packaging, industrial and consumer bags. Innovative air ring designs enable higher outputs and superior physical properties when compared to conventional methods.
- **CoolBubble:** Water quenched blown film lines for barrier packaging and thermoforming applications with exceptional optical and physical properties.
- **TripleBubble:** Biaxially oriented film lines for demanding packaging applications. These oriented films present unique opportunities for alternative packaging strategies by offering advanced shrink, barrier and optical properties and thinner gauges and lower costs.

Lines manufactured by Kuhne GmbH benefit from high engineering competence as well as from the company's profound raw material and processing expertise. Customers are provided with tailored machine technology as well as ready-for-production, turnkey product solutions, even for special requirements. All extrusion lines supplied by Kuhne are available with energy saving direct drive (gearless) extruders for additional savings and faster ROI.



About American Kuhne, Inc.

American Kuhne, Inc. is a leading worldwide supplier of standard and customized single screw extruders, feed screws, extrusion systems and specialized turnkey systems for medical applications. Extruder sizes range from 1/2" (12.7mm) through 12-inch (305mm). They are designed and built in Ashaway, RI. Turnkey pipe, tubing and profile systems are also developed, tested and manufactured within their plant. In addition, the company maintains two medical tubing lab lines capable of multi-lumen and taper tube extrusions available for customer trials in their facility in Ashaway RI and their European facility at Kuhne GmbH in St. Augustin Germany. ##

Photo Captions:

The first picture is of a triple bubble oriented film line.

The second is of a "smart bubble" line, 3 layers, with the Maximizer smart lip thickness gauge control on it.

The third is Tom Helming, Vice President, Blown Film Systems