Financial Year 2017

 **Kärcher reaches € 2.5 billion in sales**

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**Winnenden, February 19, 2018** – New record for the global market leader in cleaning technology: Sales of Kärcher rose by 7.5 percent to € 2.5 billion in the financial year 2017 (adjusted for currency and non-recurring effects, growth of 8.7 percent). This strong sales plus led to more jobs. At the end of 2017, the family company employed 12,304 people in 67 countries worldwide. This is 442 more than in the previous year.

“Kärcher continues to grow,” says Hartmut Jenner, CEO and Chairman of the Management Board. “We have achieved the highest sales in our company’s history with € 2.5 billion in 2017.”

**Sales have increased in almost all countries in local currency**With 7.5 percent, the company grew twice as fast as the world market for cleaning technology in the past financial year. “It is welcome that we have also improved in almost all countries in local currency,” says Hartmut Jenner. “Business was very good in our core markets Germany, France and Japan. But emerging regions such as Eastern Europe and South America also contributed to this positive development.”

**New battery-powered devices launched on the market**
In the past year, the company registered 56 new patents and launched more than 100 new products on the market. In the case of commercial dry cleaners, for example, the focus was on energy efficiency and battery technology as a key technology with significant potential: For the first time, newly introduced models deliver the same performance as wall-powered devices thanks to modern lithium-ion batteries. With the floor cleaner FC 5, Kärcher has developed a device for end consumers that combines vacuuming and mopping in just one step.

**More than € 18 million invested in buildings worldwide**
In 2017, Kärcher invested more than € 18 million in building, conversion and renovation of buildings at its locations around the world. Among other things, a new head office was opened in Yokohama, Japan, near Tokyo. At its headquarters in Winnenden, Germany, Kärcher has started the construction of an office building with 150 workspaces.

**Social commitment further expanded**
With its economic growth, Kärcher also further expands its social commitment internationally. This includes restoring architectural monuments as well as support for non-profit institutions and environmental organizations. In 2017, Kärcher freed mausoleums at the [Green-Wood Cemetery](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGXsxeR8alo&index=8&list=PL4E523E3BAA694B4F) in New York, the [Votive Church in Vienna](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moihnnx6EP8&index=7&list=PL4E523E3BAA694B4F) and the historical [Town Church of St. Mary’s in Wittenberg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0TosXTUh78&index=2&list=PL4E523E3BAA694B4F) from dirt, among others. Together with the Global Nature Fund and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Kärcher has continued the extensive [green filter systems](https://www.kaercher.com/de/inside-kaercher/newsroom/themenwelten/sauberes-wasser-durch-pflanzenkraft.html) project. By the end of 2018, the seventh construction will be built in South America that will clean the sewage of small villages by means of aquatic plants.

**Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG**
Das 1935 gegründete Familienunternehmen mit Sitz in Winnenden (Baden-Württemberg) ist weltweit führender Anbieter von Reinigungstechnik für den privaten, gewerblichen und industriellen Einsatz. Das Produktprogramm umfasst unter anderem Hochdruckreiniger, Sauger und Dampfreiniger, Fenstersauger, Kehr- und Scheuersaugmaschinen, Kfz-Waschanlagen, Trink- und Abwasseraufbereitungsanlagen, Trockeneisstrahlgeräte, Reinigungsmittel, Garten- und Haushaltspumpen, Bewässerungssysteme und Trinkwasserspender.

A Word file and printable images of this press release are available for you to download in our Newsroom <https://www.kaercher.com/presse>.

A video with Hartmut Jenner, CEO and Chairman of the Management Board, can be found on Kärcher’s YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/KarcherTV>. For the high-resolution video, please contact frank.schad@de.kaercher.com.

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