

**KME LAUNCHES SACUP:
A NEW PRODUCT LINE MADE OF COPPER – ANTIMICROBIAL AND ANTIVIRAL**

Particularly beneficial for contact surfaces in areas with high pedestrian traffic, the surfaces of SaCup products can easily neutralise bacteria and viruses – including SARS-CoV2. By using copper, the intrinsic properties of an extraordinary material are utilised for this purpose.

Milan - 29th of June 2021. KME, one of the world's leading manufacturers of copper and copper alloy products, is launching the SaCup range. It has been developed to exploit the antimicrobial and antiviral properties of this valuable and widely proven material in places with high pedestrian traffic - wherever contact surfaces can be a potential source of infection and a health risk.

The SaCup line includes a range of finished and semi-finished products: Tubes, sheets and special films designed for use in a variety of environments. Hospitals and schools, retail and commercial operations, transportation and hospitality are just the most important examples of the many efficient uses of this new product line. The range extends from shopping trolley and basket handles for the retail trade to handrails and grab rails in buses or similar means of transport to infusion poles, bed and table constructions in the hospital sector. The corresponding pre-products can be made to measure according to customer requirements.

Thanks to its intrinsic properties, copper has a permanent germ-neutralising effect that causes the rapid elimination of viruses, bacteria and fungi. This includes E. coli bacteria, influenza, MRSA, rotavirus, salmonella, campylobacter, legionella as well as coronaviruses (including SARS-CoV2).

80% of all infectious diseases are transmitted through surface contact. Especially in hospital hygiene, the spread of infections has long been a central issue. Nosocomial infections cause up to 100,000 deaths per year in the EU alone. The current Corona pandemic has drawn increased attention to other highly frequented places such as public transport, schools, gyms and supermarkets.

Numerous studies have proven with scientific methodology that bacteria and viruses, including SARS-CoV2, can survive or remain active on stainless steel or plastic for days or even weeks. Persistent critical loads have been found especially in surface areas with small scratches, even after disinfecting procedures have been carried out.

The Institute of Virology of the University of Pisa has demonstrated that the viral load of SARS-CoV2 on copper surfaces is reduced by 90% in 10 minutes and neutralised by 100% in 60 minutes. This property also applies to copper alloys, where 85% neutralisation occurs after 10 minutes and 100% neutralisation after 60 minutes.

The products in the SaCup line also benefit from many other advantages of copper, such as durability, health safety and maximum sustainability: copper is a 100% recyclable material. Recycled copper has the same chemical, physical and technological properties as primary copper and is therefore not restricted in use or reduced in value. Almost one third of the world's copper demand is already covered by recycling.



Azienda con sistema di gestione qualità
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KME Italy S.p.A. a socio unico
Sede Legale e
Uffici Amministrativi
50127 - Firenze
Via Giorgio Saviane, 6

Società esercitante direzione e coordinamento: KME SE – Osnabrück (D)

Casella Postale 3095 Firenze
Phone: +39 055 4411 1
Fax: +39 055 4411 240
www.kme.com
PEC: kmeitalyspa@legalmail.it

Cap. Soc. € 93.999.000,00 iv
Cod. Fiscale e Reg. Imprese
di Firenze n° 00881250153
Partita IVA IT04528110481
REA n° 460501

The Corona pandemic and the building of a post-Covid 19 future call for increased attention to the protection of individuals in social contexts. **KME, for example, is making an important contribution** to the health safety and harmlessness of contact surfaces in areas with high pedestrian traffic with the extended application possibilities **of the natural material copper and its alloys**.

At Milan's Linate airport, an interesting pilot project is currently underway for the application of copper in the transport sector. KME is working together with SEA (Società Esercizi Aeroportuali) on the use of SaCup products for all important contact surfaces: Handrails, handles of luggage trolleys and grab rails in buses are manufactured using SaCup copper products.

The cooperation with SEA is part of a comprehensive project by Milano Linate. One project goal is to introduce a range of new technologies to make the travel experience as contactless as possible. For contact surfaces that are still necessary, solutions are being sought to minimise any risk of contagion. The introduction of copper surfaces of the SaCup range is leading precisely in this direction.

The new product range is a further confirmation of KME's expertise in responding to modern requirements with wide-ranging know-how in copper processing. In this case, the project aims to guarantee people safe environmental conditions in terms of hygiene and health in the places that play an important role in our daily lives.

KME Press Office

Contact Press Agency: Kirstin Karotki - kkarotki@webershandwick.com +49 30 20351226 / kme-presse@webershandwick.de

Contact KME Germany GmbH: info-marketing@kme.com

KME

With over a century of history, KME is today one of the world's largest manufacturers of copper and copper alloy products. Headquartered in Osnabrück (Germany), the Group is present in Europe, China and the USA with eight production sites and a worldwide distribution network with offices, representatives and trading companies on four continents. KME also operates two research centres in Italy and Germany. In 2019, the Group recorded a turnover of €2.6 billion and 410 thousand tonnes of materials sold. KME directly employs around 4,500 people worldwide. KME currently employs more than 500 people in Italy at its plants in Serravalle (AL) and Fornaci di Barga (LU).



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