SACUP BY KME:
COPPER PRODUCT LINE FOR HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATIONS -
ANTIMICROBIAL AND ANTIVIRAL

- *New products for public areas that can easily neutralise bacteria and viruses - including SARS-CoV2 - thanks to copper's natural properties*
- *Product launch for safer travel starts at Milan Linate Airport*

Milan - 29th of June 2021. **KME**, one of the world's largest manufacturers of copper and copper alloy products, **has developed the SaCup range of products with the aim of making the most of the antimicrobial and antiviral properties of this valuable and widely proven material. SaCup products are ideal for applications in public and generally highly frequented places – such as airports – where contact surfaces can be a potential source of infection and a health risk.**

Thanks to the cooperation with SEA (Società Esercizi Aeroportuali), Milan Linate Airport can be passed through even more safely: The use of products from the SaCup range with their antimicrobial and antiviral properties for all high-contact surfaces has begun. Stair handrails, luggage trolley handles and hand supports in buses operating on the airport premises are all made of copper.

„The collaboration between KME and SEA has made it possible to use the SaCup range in a high passenger traffic context such as Milan Linate Airport. The airport has been included in a new architectural project designed to offer passengers a pleasant, modern and increasingly safe travel experience." Claudio Pinassi, CEO of KME SpA, comments: „Thanks to the use of copper for the design of highly frequented contact surfaces, transit passengers can move in a more relaxed way and enjoy their time at the airport with more safety and fun."

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.

The new product range is a further confirmation of KME's expertise in responding to modern requirements with its 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. **Building a more sustainable future requires increased attention to the protection of individuals in social contexts. In this way, KME is making an important contribution with the expanded applications of the natural material copper and its alloys.**

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, with 85% neutralisation after 10 minutes and 100% neutralisation after 60 minutes.

SaCup products 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 today.

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).