

## Emission-free flying: Webasto and Goldhofer electrify ground support equipment

**Stockdorf/Munich – April 20, 2021** – The future of flying lies in alternative propulsion systems, both in the sky and on the ground. It is already the declared goal of many airports worldwide to become emission-free within the next few years. Webasto, one of the world's 100 largest automotive suppliers, together with Goldhofer, a manufacturer of vehicles for heavy-duty and special transport purposes, intend to help achieve this goal: Goldhofer is electrifying its products in the field of ground support equipment, while Webasto is not only supplying batteries for the vehicles, but also the required electronics know-how and technical support.

Together, the two Bavarian companies are bringing the optimized "SHERPA" E New Gen to airport roads, among others. The advantages of an electrically-powered cargo tractor over one with an internal combustion engine are numerous: reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, lower noise emissions, less local particulate pollution, a more pleasant driving experience (as there is no longer a need to shift gears), a significantly more positive torque curve and equivalent performance. Moreover, electric tractors are less maintenance-intensive. Since 2017, the "SHERPA" E has already been providing quiet and emission-free operation on airport aprons around the world. Some 30 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum can be saved by using it.

Depending on the version, the "SHERPA" E uses either one or two 35 kWh batteries from Webasto. When selecting the battery Goldhofer took various key aspects into consideration. One of the most important was that the battery systems are of modular design, which allows them to be used across various different vehicles. "We have diverse vehicle ranges of different sizes and requirement levels. We identified Webasto as an all-rounder for the "SHERPA" and "BISON" product segment, which offers us as a company the option of modular construction," is how Rüdiger Dube, Head of Product Management Airport Technology at Goldhofer, describes the decision-making process. For Goldhofer, it was also important for the batteries to already be approved for road use, which is the case here, as they have been subjected to electromagnetic compatibility testing and therefore do not interfere with radio or electronic components. In terms of battery technology, lithium nickel manganese cobalt oxide batteries were selected because they offer the highest energy density.

Together, Webasto and Goldhofer want to continue supporting airports on their way to achieving zero emissions. "We are very pleased to be one of the first manufacturers to offer highly attractive electric variants in the cargo and pushback tractor segment. The trend toward zero-emission drive systems is highly dynamic and irreversible. We are happy to have Webasto as a reliable partner at our side and look forward to continued cooperation," emphasizes Jochen Preßmar, R&D Project Manager for electric vehicles at Goldhofer. "We are very pleased to have gained a strong and experienced partner in Goldhofer, with whom we can drive forward electrification in the field of ground support equipment, thereby making our contribution to achieving emission-free airports around the world. In order to be able to meet the ever-increasing demands on electric ground support vehicles we will continue to offer, and constantly expand, a comprehensive portfolio of solutions for electric vehicles. As a driver of electromobility, Goldhofer plays a key role in stimulating us to develop future products for electric vehicles in the airport sector that meet market requirements as closely as possible,"

says Manuel Kagelmann, Head of Product Portfolio Domain Batteries at Webasto, looking to the future.

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**About Webasto:**

The Webasto Group is a global innovative systems partner to almost all automobile manufacturers and among the top 100 suppliers in this industry sector. The company's product portfolio comprises a broad range of roof and heating systems for every type of vehicle and all drive types as well as battery systems and charging solutions. Moreover, Webasto has a strong position in the aftermarket providing dealers and end customers with customized solutions and services relating to thermo management and electromobility. In 2020 the company generated sales of around 3.3 billion euros and had over 14,000 employees at more than 50 locations (with over 30 of these being manufacturing plants). The headquarters of the company, founded in 1901, is located in Stockdorf near Munich (Germany). For more information please visit [www.webasto-group.com](http://www.webasto-group.com) / [www.twitter.com/WebastoGroup](https://www.twitter.com/WebastoGroup)

**About Goldhofer:**

**The Goldhofer Group**

Goldhofer is a globally operating company headquartered in Memmingen, Germany, which continues to strengthen its leading position as a manufacturer of heavy and specialized transport vehicles. The Group combines a high and consistent standard of quality for its transport solutions with maximum proximity to customers. With its growing, tightly knit global sales, service and production network, the company guarantees the local availability of new vehicles, vehicle parts and services at all times. Further added value is provided in the form of additional, mostly software tools for support with axle-load, stability and bend analysis as well as innovative sensor technology and data analysis. Goldhofer is committed to working in partnership with customers so as to be equipped to meet every logistical challenge.

The **Airport Technology** division has a focus on the specific requirements of airport logistics. The division's wide range of conventional and towbarless aircraft tow tractors, aircraft recovery systems, and cargo and baggage tractors in all size classes are reliable performers for continuous operations in ground support at airports worldwide. With a full portfolio of transport solutions with zero-emission battery-powered e-versions («lonMaster» technology), Goldhofer is also a prominent pioneer in the field of e-mobility

The **Transport Technology** division delivers strictly user-oriented heavy-haulage solutions and a full range of dedicated accessories for on- and off-road operations with payloads of up to 15,000 tons and more. The broad-based product portfolio is tailored to the requirements and infrastructures of the various regional markets and guarantees full flexibility, even for unusual operations. In addition to trailers and semi-trailers for the construction and haulage industries, Goldhofer supplies transport systems for the wind power industry and a range of heavy-duty combinations with and without hydrostatic drive for transporting oversized and ultra-heavy cargos.

For more information please visit [www.goldhofer.com](http://www.goldhofer.com)

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