

Developing and providing innovative logistics solutions

Establishment of a Joint Venture with the German EPG Group

Joint investment with Konoike Transport and a German digital solutions development group

Konoike Transport Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Chuo-ku , Osaka; Representative Director, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer: Tadahiko Konoike; hereinafter referred to as "Konoike Transport") has resolved at a meeting of its Board of Directors held on April 17, 2025, to establish a joint venture company, Ehrhardt Konoike Solutions GmbH (Head Office: Boppard, Germany; hereinafter referred to as "EKS"), through a joint investment in collaboration with Ehrhardt Software-Solutions und Service GmbH (Headquarters: Emmerzhausen, Germany, Representative: Marco Ehrhardt) and Ehrhardt and Partner Logistics GmbH (Head Office: Boppard, Germany, Representative: Marco Ehrhardt), subsidiaries of the Ehrhardt and Partner Group (Head Office: Boppard, Germany; Representative: Marco Ehrhardt; hereinafter referred to as the "EPG Group") in the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter referred to as "Germany"). EKS aims to develop and provide innovative solutions in the logistics industry that implement cutting-edge German technology. This will be Konoike Transport's first joint venture company established in Germany.

EKS operates existing multi-tenant (3PL) warehouses, and while utilizing and introducing cutting-edge warehouse solutions, it develops and provides advanced technologies and new software products for the logistics sector. In addition, based on Konoike Transport's many years of experience in logistics operations and the EPG Group's long-term commitment to innovative logistics software solutions, EKS will provide warehouse management with excellence in the development and operation of new digital products and superior productivity.

The KONOIKE Group has adopted the message "People, leveraging technology to reach for new heights" in its 2030 Vision. The reason for this is a strong sense of crisis that relying on the traditional labor-intensive business model will prevent us from providing sufficient added value to our customers. We are now entering an age where all industries are aiming to optimize the use of digital technology, also known as "Industry 4.0"^{*1}. Meanwhile, in developed countries such as Japan, it is anticipated that the shortage of labor due to the declining birthrate and aging population will become an even more serious social issue. The KONOIKE Group views these environmental changes not as threats but as opportunities. Through the utilization of data, we aim to build solutions centered on software that supports improvement activities such as on-site productivity improvements, and to make these solutions available for use within the KONOIKE Group as well as to commercialize them as a new business.

^{*1}. In the manufacturing industry in particular, there are moves to optimize the overall processes and increase productivity by collecting, analyzing and managing all types of on-site data using digital technologies such as AI and IoT

Germany, the birthplace of Industry 4.0, is home to long-established companies with a history of over 100 years, which are using automation and AI as allies to take on the challenge of digitizing existing businesses and building new business models. Konoike Transport has been expanding its activities in Germany since 2022 so as to learn from Germany and seek partner companies to work with. Germany also ranks in the top four in the World Logistics Index^{*2}.

^{*2} In the 2023 World Logistics Index published by the World Bank. Singapore ranked 1st, Finland ranked 2nd, Denmark ranked 3rd. Japan is ranked 14th. (Source)<https://lpi.worldbank.org/international/global>

The EPG Group is a global leading provider of supply chain execution software for smarter logistics management. It is particularly well-known for its stand-alone warehouse management system (WMS) solutions and related software products that optimize logistics supply chains and internal logistics processes. The EPG Group has achieved a leading position internationally in its warehouse control system (WCS), voice picking systems, ground handling software, and route planning (TMS) systems.

EKS also pursues the same vision and strategy. It utilizes existing multi-tenant (3PL) warehouses as a platform for product development, product improvement, and the integration of advanced technologies and processes, such as the use of AI-driven software solutions and robotics, and carry out development, testing, and operation in a single location.

■ Tadatsugu Konoike, Director and Senior Managing Executive Officer, In charge of Overseas Business / In charge of Technology Innovation

The establishment of EKS is an important step towards realizing the KONOIKE Group's "People, leveraging technology to reach for new heights" in its 2030 Vision. In the future, we believe that systems that optimize not only WMS and WCS but the entire supply chain will become extremely important. In pursuit of realizing digital twins, which is the heart of Industry 4.0, in addition to utilizing simulations that we are currently engaged in, EKS will develop cutting-edge digital solutions that utilize all types of on-site data. By combining the system building expertise that the EPG Group has cultivated over many years with the on-site capabilities of Konoike Transport, we will develop and provide more innovative and productive logistics solutions to meet the needs of our customers.

■ Comments from Marco Ehrhardt, EPG Group Representative

By combining the expertise of the EPG Group, represented by its provision of the EPG ONE supply chain logistics software over many years, with the on-site operational experience of Konoike Transport in Japan, the new joint venture company EKS will function as a perfect real-world environment for building, operating and accelerating cutting-edge logistics processes and software solutions. The EPG Group is very happy to have met Konoike Transport through our research and development activities. This allows both partners to leverage their respective areas of expertise to drive innovation that will provide a better, smarter working environment, and increased productivity and safety. Through future-oriented product development that concentrates the specialized knowledge of both partners, EKS will be able to achieve the best results in its two main markets of Germany and Japan.

■ **Overview of "EKS"**

Business Name	Ehrhardt Konoike Solutions GmbH
Head Office	Alte Römerstraße 3 56154 Boppard Germany
Scheduled date for signing the joint venture agreement	April 30, 2025
Scheduled establishment date	July 1, 2025
Shareholding ratio	EPG Group 51%, Konoike Transport 49%
Business	Warehouse operations and process optimization, software development and sales, process improvement consulting

■ Overview of EPG (<https://www.epg.com/>)

The EPG Group is a global leader in smart logistics and warehouse management solutions, headquartered in Boppard, Germany.

Business Name	Ehrhardt + Partner GmbH & Co. KG	Representative	Marco Ehrhardt
Head Office	Alte Römerstraße 3 56154 Boppard Germany		
Founded	1987	Incorporated	1987
Business	Development, sales and implementation of international logistics software / warehouse operations and supply chain process optimization (including process improvement consulting)		

For press inquiries, please use the inquiry form on the Contact page of the KONOIKE Group's Global website:

https://www.konoike.net/en/contact/ir_pr/

■ Overview of Konoike Transport Co., Ltd. : (<https://www.konoike.net/en/>)

The KONOIKE Group is a professional organization that continually challenges itself to solve society's problems and innovate, going beyond the boundaries of logistics and expanding into manufacturing, medical, airport operations, and more.

Business Name	Konoike Transport Co., Ltd. *"Prime Market" segment of the Tokyo Stock Exchange	Representative	Tadahiko Konoike, Representative Director, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Osaka Head Office	4-3-9 Fushimimachi, Chuo-ku, Osaka	Tokyo Head Office	6-10-1 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
Founded	May 1880	Incorporated	May 30, 1945
Capital Stock	1,723 million yen	Employees	Approx. 24,000 (total number as a group) *Temporary staff included
Net Sales	344,987 million yen (Consolidated)	Operating Income	21,385 million yen (Consolidated)
Business	Steel business, Engineering business, Food related business / Temperature-controlled logistics, Food products related business, Life related business, Medical business, Airport business, International logistics business and India business		

*Capital stock, employees, net sales and operating income are as of March 31, 2025

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