Presse release

25 years of Krone Profi Liner

Krone's bestseller: Technology carrier in the 5th generation

Werlte, March 2023 - Built and proven a hundred thousand times, the Profi Liner from Krone celebrates its 25th birthday this year. When it came to semitrailers with drop sides, which were common in the late 90s, the solid Krone trailers were considered the benchmark back then. But the transport landscape changed rapidly in this decade: the European domestic market became larger and larger, and logistics fixed on pallets demanded sliding curtain semi-trailers, because loading was increasingly done from the side instead of from the rear.

A new type of vehicle quickly became popular: the "tautliner", a body whose sides consisted of individually operated sliding curtainsiders without drop sides. Krone responded to the growing demand with its own sliding curtain semitrailer, but the design initially had its pitfalls. Uwe Sasse, Managing Director Design and Development at Krone until 2022, remembers: "The Krone sliding curtain semitrailer was a modified dropside semitrailer in which we simply omitted the drop sides. There were big problems at first because the strength of the vehicle changed negatively without drop sides."

Krone's biggest customer at the time, Scanbalt founder Leif Toft, wrote a three-page letter to Dr. Bernard Krone requesting a fundamental redesign of the sliding curtain semitrailer. He immediately commissioned a project team with the revision, and after just six months the prototype of the new Krone curtainsider trailer was ready - full of innovative ideas, some of which can still be found in the Profi Liner today (and in the meantime also with competitors): the steel end wall, the steel rear door with single-joint hinge, the basic chassis construction and the cable routing. Right from the start, the developers relied on a modular structure to exploit economies of scale. Another quality feature, which Krone was the first manufacturer worldwide to introduce in 1997, was the KTL plus powder process for long-term protection against rust.

The only thing missing was a catchy name that could be understood in all countries. Rainer Steuernagel, then head of sales and

marketing at Krone, had the brilliant idea: "Profi Liner", a liner for professionals. The catchy name quickly caught on, and the second half of the word "liner" became the programme, so that the liner derivatives Coil, Mega, Paper, City, Box, Cool and Dry were added shortly afterwards. At the IAA Commercial Vehicles 1998, the new Krone Liner family made its grand entrance, even though the new naming partly comprised already familiar products.

Today, on its 25th birthday, the Profi Liner is already in its fifth generation. In 2003, the Profi Liner 2 was introduced, with the focus on quality optimisation. The third generation was launched in 2006, this time focusing on reducing life cycle costs, manufacturing costs and weight, as well as making the entire trailer maintenance-free for 48 months. With Profi Liner 4, introduced in 2009, the aim was to reduce manufacturing, purchasing and logistics costs and to simplify internal processes. Finally, the current Profi Liner 5 comes with a tare weight of approx. 6 t in the standard equipment, with robot-manufactured steel container doors and many new details in the body. In addition, the Profi Liner can be equipped with numerous telematics functions.

Thanks to the sophisticated modular system, the Profi Liner can be customised for numerous individual requirements. The Profi Liner is also well equipped when it comes to future requirements. As part of the "Mission Beyond Zero" launched by Krones in 2022, the Krone eTrailers are helping fleets to improve their carbon footprint. Even though the Profi Liner was first introduced in 1998 - 25 years ago - Krone's curtainsider trailer remains cutting-edge and offers plenty of potential for future innovations.

Caption 1:

The first Krone Profi Liner as a sliding curtain trailer full of innovative ideas, some of which can still be found in the Profi Liner today.

Caption 2:

Thanks to continuous further development, the fifth-generation Krone Profi Liner now comes in a wide range of variations.

Photos: Krone