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## THE AKWEL FAMILY GROUP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

To mark its 50th anniversary, AKWEL is revisiting the half-century that made its history. In 1972 in Champfromier (Ain), the Coutier brothers, André, Joseph and Roger, founded the company Coutier SARL, a subcontractor specialising in the production of plastic parts, at a time when the automotive industry was the leading economic sector in France. From general manufacturer to tier 1 component manufacturer, AKWEL's range and skills have evolved thanks to new technologies, constant innovation and external growth. The history of AKWEL is available in the virtual and experiential museum dedicated to the group's anniversary at [www.akwel.com](http://www.akwel.com), which is structured around three key milestones: yesterday, today and tomorrow. The story is punctuated with archival material and specially prepared content to offer an authentic and carefully curated experience.

### AN IMMERSION IN THE FAMILY'S EPIC SAGA

Before becoming an international group operating in 20 countries and with a turnover of nearly €1bn, AKWEL was the adventure of three brothers united by their arduous childhood and shared work ethic.



Through their journey, we can discover or rediscover the entrepreneurial adventure and technological innovations that shaped the company, as it developed into a globally recognised equipment and systems manufacturer.

- **1978:** first direct order from a motor manufacturer and listing as an approved Peugeot supplier
- **1988-1990:** Coutier begins its transformation: takeover of MGI and establishment of MGI Coutier, a components manufacturer specialising in plastics and metal
- **1994:** listing on the stock exchange
- **2015:** the second generation of Coutiers takes the helm with the appointment of Mathieu Coutier, the son of André Coutier, as President of the Executive Board.
- **2018:** the Coutier Group changes its name to become AKWEL.

*"From its inception in a barn in the Ain department to its international status, AKWEL has always remained true to its DNA: family-run, reliable, effective, innovative, simple and human. Our roots and the common sense that have guided us throughout our history led us to identify our mission early on: to be a trusted tier-one supplier for our customers and help them meet all their challenges. While it has evolved and adapted to the challenges of today and tomorrow, its fundamentals have remained unchanged,"* comments Mathieu Coutier, President of AKWEL

### AKWEL AT THE HEART OF AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION

The history of AKWEL is also that of the automotive sector and its major developments. The advent of the motor car has had a profound impact on society as a whole, from travelling and consumption habits to production and manufacturing methods. AKWEL has always been able to anticipate and adapt to emerging challenges that have affected the industry over the years.

*"The Group was built on the development of engineering plastics for vehicles. At the time, manufacturers viewed plastic as key, as they were trying to save money while improving the weight of vehicles to make them more fuel-efficient. Over time, expertise in the plastics processing industry was supplemented with skills in the rubber and metal industries. Through external growth, we sought to acquire the technologies we needed to help transfer fluids. It became one of AKWEL's specialities in the 2010s," adds Thomas Gaye, AKWEL's Innovation Director.*

**Two notable innovations:**

- Attractive, aerodynamic, light and safe – **the Flush handle became a flagship product**, responding to a new approach to exterior opening controls. Concentrated product innovation, produced exclusively for Renault. AKWEL expects to manufacture 600,000 units by 2025.
- In 2020, AKWEL formed **a partnership with Tallano Technologie**, which came up with the TAMIC<sup>®</sup> solution, a system for collecting harmful micro-particles emitted during vehicle braking.

A full list of products can be found here: <https://akwel.com/en/today-products-and-technologies>

AKWEL worked with the firm Roland Berger to take a more in-depth look at forward-looking topics in the automotive sector in order to design the innovations and products of tomorrow.

For more information: <https://akwel.com/en/tomorrow>

**AKWEL key figures**

- Presence in 20 countries
- Nearly €1bn in turnover
- Three areas of expertise: fluid management, mechanisms, and structural parts for electric vehicles
- More than 30 product types developed and manufactured by the teams
- All group sites certified to ISO 14001 for environmental management
- Five plants certified to ISO 50001 for energy management in France, representing 75% of energy expenditure at the French sites
- Approximately 10,000 employees worldwide
- 82% of waste recycled or recovered

*An independent, family-owned group listed on the Euronext Paris Stock Exchange, AKWEL is an automotive and HGV equipment and systems manufacturer specialising in fluid management, mechanisms, and structural parts for electric vehicles, offering first-rate industrial and technological expertise in applying and processing materials (plastics, rubber, metal) and mechatronic integration.*

*Operating in 20 countries across every continent, AKWEL employs 10,000 people worldwide.*

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