

## “Clean” electronics rely on the right O-rings

A complete system can only reach peak performance when all of the smallest parts do their job. That’s why the team at Kolb Cleaning Technology GmbH pays attention to even the tiniest technical detail, and yet is still highly efficient. How so? Because when it comes to sealing technology, it relies on Angst+Pfister. Kolb Cleaning Technology is a world leader for the electronics industry.



Competition is hot: electronics companies must be highly productive and deliver first class performance. Soldering processes, for example, are automated. In one of the processing stages, the solder paste is printed onto the soldering joints by screen stencils. These stencils have to be cleaned – as do the filter systems in the downstream brazing furnace. Cleaning can influence the rate of production as well as overall quality.

**System means machine plus cleaning agents** Alcatel, Bosch, Philips, Nokia and Siemens all rely on Kolb when it comes to cleaning. Many globally operating electronics companies have certified the Kolb cleaning systems, which are made near Dusseldorf, Germany, for their worldwide production sites. Kolb Cleaning Technology GmbH, was founded in a basement 25 years ago as a pure manufacturing service, is now one of the leading system suppliers. At Kolb, system means machine plus self-developed, process-optimized cleaning chemicals. However, system also means being cost-effective and protecting the environment. Many Kolb product developments are now patented – and the flow of innovation isn’t stopping. The latest development is a stencil cleaner that also cleans assemblies for the automotive and aircraft industries, for example, so that they can be sprayed afterwards.

**The elastomer mixture has to be correct – and always consistent** Kolb’s vertical manufacturing integration is comparatively deep and its selection of suppliers is very strict. An incorrect mixture of the material can be fatal for the seals; the O-ring could expand, or in the worst case, even dissolve. “That’s why we checked the market a few years ago,” says Kolb CFO Christian Ortmann. And since one company can always learn from another, Kolb encountered Angst+Pfister through another friendly company. “Since then,” Christian Ortmann adds, “for all systems – whether for screen stencil cleaning,

**“We can be sure to get O-rings that always have the same synthetic mixture.”**

Christian Ortmann, Chief Financial Officer,  
Kolb Cleaning Technology GmbH  
Willich, Germany

Top class cleaning technology for the electronic industry: It’s all about the seal.



They keep constant watch over the high production quality at Kolb Cleaning Technology GmbH: from left Christian Linker, Georg Pollmann and Christian Ortmann.

precision cleaning or maintenance cleaning – we use HITEC® EPDM O-rings. This way we can always be sure to get the same elastomer mixture.” For hard-to-reach areas or for places where the seal comes into direct contact with the cleaning agent, Angst+Pfister’s high-performance FFKM O-rings are the right

choice. Meanwhile, the cooperation between Kolb and Angst+Pfister has extended to fluid handling technology: the cleaning agents are conveyed through PE and PTFE hoses that are also supplied by Angst+Pfister.

### The APSOparts® online shop enhances productivity

In addition to the reliable, constant high product quality, Christian Ortmann cites another reason for the business relationship: APSOparts®, Angst+Pfister’s online shop. “We are able to get detailed information simply and quickly and can download data sheets. This is especially helpful for our developers. They can order samples without wasting a lot of time.”

Christian Ortmann thanks APSOparts® for shortening development and production time: “Ordering online makes our job easier; it goes ‘quietly’ through our departments and increases productivity.” Of course, Christian Ortmann and his colleagues still have their

personal contact at Angst+Pfister: Ralf Roters provides them with reliable, expert advice and support. “We assess our suppliers every year,” says Christian Ortmann recapping. “Angst+Pfister is always in the top 15% that get an A from us.”

Your contact:  
Ralf Roters  
Sales Application Engineer  
Angst+Pfister Germany  
+49 711 489 992 25 05  
ralf.roters@angst-pfister.com



Angst+Pfister’s high-performance FFKM and EPDM O-rings are the right choice.