



Company Milestones

1945	Company founded by Mr. Franz Kiel as a metalworking business
1947	Conversion into Franz Kiel GmbH and admission of co-owner Mr. Friedrich Krüger
1948	Construction of a new production hall in Nördlingen, Bavaria
1950	Start of production of rigid seat frames
1952	Start of surface finishing (electroplating) and grinding shop
1954	Start of large-scale production of handrails
1955	First production of adjustable seat frames, the so-called Greyhound seats
1960	Start of armrest production for coach seats
1964	Start of footrest production for coach seats
1965	Installation of a powder-coating / wet-painting facility
1975	Start of production orders for Deutsche Bundesbahn (German Federal Railways)
1977	Start of backrest production
1981	Development of the first self-supporting plastic shell seat "Kiel 1"
1985	Development of the plastic shell seat "Kiel Linie"
1986	Introduction of an intercity version based on "Kiel Linie" as a product line extension
1987	First use of welding robots
1989	Construction of a new administration building and warehouse; establishment of a new stamping facility
1990	Development of the first retractable armrest made entirely of plastic
1992	Development of a single-arm footrest
1993	Establishment of an in-house upholstery shop and a new surface technology division
1996	Foundation of the subsidiary Kiel Oto Koltuk in Bursa, Turkey
1997	Foundation of the subsidiary Kiel Polska Sp. z o.o. in Nowy Tomyśl, Poland
2000	Acquisition of Deco Seating in the Netherlands and conversion into Kiel B.V.; production of the Avance coach seat line
2001	Foundation of Kiel France s.a.r.l. in France; further sales activities in Scandinavia, Greece, and Israel
2002	Takeover of rail seat production from the Norwegian company Eknes
2003	Establishment of production in Turkey; license agreement for bus seat production in India
2007	Foundation of Kiel Seating Ltd. in Northampton, United Kingdom
2008	First delivery of the Match rail seat for regional transport
2009	Foundation of Kiel N.A. L.L.C. in North America
2010	Start of production at FKT Koltuk A.Ş. in Turkey

2012	Construction of a new production hall for rail seat manufacturing in Nördlingen
2014	Development of the Comfortline seat for high-speed trains
2016	Kiel acquires the Spanish company Emar Kiel
2017	Foundation of the subsidiary Kiel Macedonia DOOEL, expansion of presence in the Balkans
2019	Foundation of the joint venture Jiangsu ARSALE KIEL Seat Co., Ltd. in China – strategically important step into Asia
2020	Acquisition of the U.S. rail seat manufacturer Kustom Seating Unlimited, Inc. (Chicago), further expansion in North America
2022	New corporate identity with the campaign “Inspired by the Next Generation” and cooperation with Reutlingen University in the project “Smart Seating 2035+”
2023	Presentation of the new Avance X VIP “TECseat” and the Ligerio G4 – ultra-light, modular, digitally connected – at the BUSWORLD Europe trade fair in Brussels, addressing the trends of ergonomics, lightweight design, and digitalization
2024	Opening of a new production plant in Tetovo, Želino, North Macedonia
2025	Presentation of the new train seat Match G3

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