**Plastic-free COVID-19 tests: Körber receives Sustainability Initiative Award for second time in a row**

**Paris, February 2, 2023. The recyclable cardboard COVID-19 rapid antigen test from the international technology group Körber has been awarded the prestigious Sustainability Initiative award at Pharmapack 2023, one of the leading industry events taking place in Paris. This is the second time in a row for Körber, having received the same award at last year’s event for its sustainable grass paper packaging solutions.**

With the spread of COVID-19 around the world, rapid antigen tests became equally ubiquitous. Huge numbers of tests were produced out of plastic in short order, and now it’s impossible to imagine life without them. In 2021, over 113 million test kits were used in Germany alone – resulting in 678 metric tons of plastic waste.

This is where the Swiss packaging experts from Körber Group’s Business Area Pharma come in: they’ve developed packaging for COVID-19 tests that replaces 100 percent of the plastic components with cardboard monomaterial. This solution offers enormous benefits for the environment: Today, some 80 percent of plastic waste is incinerated, leading to high CO2 emissions. In comparison, 80 percent of the Körber cardboard packaging can be recycled—and this up to twenty times. Furthermore, the use of monomaterial means that CO2 emissions from manufacturing the packaging are reduced by more than 50 percent. And lastly, the packaging’s raw materials are 30 percent lighter, reducing transport weight.

“Our latest solution is not just a change in material. It also has an extraordinarily positive effect on our environment by saving tons of CO2. For us, the important thing about this is being able to provide a huge added value not only to our customers, but also to our society,” said Joachim Hoeltz, CEO at Körber Pharma Packaging Materials AG, at the presentation of the Sustainability Initiative Award in Paris. He added that “sustainability is not just a buzzword for us, but an important goal we’ve been pursuing for decades already. Being honored with this year’s Pharmapack Sustainability Initiative Award, after having also received it in 2022, means we’re on the right track.”

**Functional and sustainable while saving costs**

With Körber’s customized packaging solutions, functionality and sustainability are not the only benefits. The experts at Körber are also dedicated to enhancing cost efficiency. This was recognized just recently in December 2022 when Körber’s “FlexPack” solution, which allows vials and ampoules of different sizes to be integrated within the same package, was a Gold Winner in the “Cost-Effective” category at the InnoPack Awards in China. “FlexPack” offers the pharma industry huge economic advantages, especially when it comes to highly sensitive biopharmaceuticals.

**About Körber’s Business Area Pharma**

At the Körber Business Area Pharma we are delivering the difference along the pharma value chain with our unique portfolio of integrated solutions. Based on in-depth experience spanning consulting, inspection, transport systems, packaging machines and materials, track and trace and software, we understand the challenges in pharmaceutical processes and regulation that our customers face day to day, from the beginning to the end of their production. For them, we deliver the difference to unlock the potential of global pharmaceutical and biotech manufacturing:

[www.koerber-pharma.com](http://www.koerber-pharma.com/en)

**About Körber**

Körber is an international technology group with about 12,000 employees, more than 100 locations worldwide and a common goal: We turn entrepreneurial thinking into customer success and shape the technological change. In the Business Areas Digital, Pharma, Supply Chain, Technologies and Tissue, we offer products, solutions and services that inspire. We respond quickly to customer needs, we implement ideas seamlessly, and our innovations create added value for our customers. We are increasingly building on ecosystems that solve the challenges of today and tomorrow. Körber AG is the holding company of the Körber Group:

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