

**Press Release**

**Neu-Isenburg, October 2009**

## **ROCKINGER successful with its wide range and top quality**

**ROCKINGER Agriculture & Forestry is one of the world's leading manufacturers of towing hitches for agricultural machinery. The ROCKINGER brand, now part of the JOST Group, stands for over 100 years of experience, a wide array of different couplings, the best materials and the utmost in production quality.**

ROCKINGER Agriculture & Forestry develops, manufactures and distributes towing hitches for all machinery used in the agriculture industry (tractors, combines, forage harvesters, agricultural trailers etc.) In addition to open mouthed couplings, the company also manufactures ball couplings, Piton Fix systems, swinging drawbars and drawbar brackets. A multitude of accessories such as drawbar eyes, ball couplings, forced steering systems, remote controls and remote displays top off the comprehensive product range, which spans all machines and engine-power classes.

The highest demand for ROCKINGER products is seen in the premium class; operators of vehicles and machines in a professional setting have especially high demands in terms of quality and component lifespan. In addition, ROCKINGER offers systems and combinations of different types of couplings. Large tractors do not always need to be equipped with only an automatic bolt coupling. They are often outfitted with an additional ball coupling in the bottom connection for heavy central axis trailers and soil cultivation equipment these days. Manual insert pin couplings are normally sufficient in smaller tractors for connecting centre pivot trailers and light

equipment. ROCKINGER offers all types of couplings combined with the appropriate attachment blocks – often even as original equipment – or separately.

### **High-strength components for a long product life**

ROCKINGER attaches great importance to easy and safe operation as well as top quality. ROCKINGER has over 100 years of experience in producing couplings and uses only the best steels. Whenever technically possible, forge-formed components are utilised. For cast components, ROCKINGER only uses high-strength cast steel instead of simple grey cast iron. To prevent early erosion, surface-hardened materials are generally used for bolts and other wearing parts.

Bolt couplings always require a bit of play in order to get the right drawbar turn angle required for off-road use. Ball-shaped bolts, or bolts that are thicker in the middle, are often utilised to minimise play between towing eye and bolt. ROCKINGER is the only manufacturer that attains almost the same result with cylindrical bolts because ROCKINGER couplings couple non-centrally, which minimises the play between bolt and eye.

### **New: Heavy duty ball couplings**

There is an increasing demand for ball couplings in tractors, attributable to increased use of heavy central axis trailers of various designs. These trailers require a great deal of supporting force from tractors that standard couplings cannot support. In new innovations, ROCKINGER will present a "heavy duty" version of the ball coupling at Agritechnica 2009. This new version can support the constantly increasing weight central axis trailers are subject to and stands up to the ever growing market demands. Amongst other features, the new HD model has a reinforced down-holder, which prevents the coupling socket from coming apart from the ball, for example when dumping or during rear-heavy loading. The new forge-formed steel down-holder withstands enormous strain. In Piton Fix couplings, ROCKINGER will soon offer a heavy duty model with a reinforced down-holder as well.

### **Positive business performance**

In contrast to the general decline seen in the market for towing hitches, demand has remained steady for ROCKINGER products. The company even expects to see a slight increase in production this year as well as a rise in turnover from agricultural towing hitches.

As the market is becoming more and more oriented towards professional application, we anticipate a stable future demand for high quality products that users are willing to pay a bit more for.

Press Contact:

Monika Smilovic  
Siemensstraße 2  
63263 Neu-Isenburg, Germany

Tel: +49 (6102) 295-383

E-mail: [monika.smilovic@jost-werke.de](mailto:monika.smilovic@jost-werke.de)