

## The feature-packed trailer of the future

**Experience the next generation caravan platform for the first time at the Caravan Salon**

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**Kötz** – Travelling with a trailer combination will become more and more environmentally friendly, comfortable and safer. The possibilities offered by the innovative trailer chassis for private and commercial users of the future are wide-ranging. The concept study by AL-KO Vehicle Technology and its partner Huber Automotive AG shows what is possible with state-of-the-art, electrified drive technology and sensors. The next generation trailer platform is designed for trailers and caravans up to 3.5 tons.

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### Greater range and higher energy efficiency

The range of electric towing vehicles is greatly reduced when combined with a traditional caravan or trailer – in some cases by up to 70%. This would mean a reduction in range from an average of 500 km to only about 100-150 km. AL-KO's technical solution for this problem is an electric 48-volt drive integrated in the chassis of the (caravan) trailer. The active support of the towing vehicle increases the **range** on the one hand – regardless of whether it is a classic combustion or electric towing vehicle. And on the other hand there are even more advantages:

### Recuperation

Recuperation means energy recovery in brake/ overrun mode. This makes driving an electric car with a trailer more efficient and ecological. For fuel-powered vehicles, electronic support in the caravan chassis of the future will bring a welcome **reduction in fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** and additional brake support on mountain roads.

### More safety

The solution to electronic **trailer stabilisation** is intelligent system architecture. An automated and sensor-supported electronic control system transmits safety-relevant data to the electric drive, which powers or decelerates the wheels individually. Automotive sensors guarantee the shortest, situation-specific reaction times. This means that in dangerous situations the caravan/trailer can be stabilised immediately without any action on the part of the driver. In addition,

other factors such as the loading condition and environmental influences are taken into account in the analysis.

### **More comfort**

Thanks to the recuperation, which serves as a **braking function**, continuous braking downhill when driving the caravan over mountain passes is more comfortable and more wear-resistant.

In addition, the powered trailer axle serves as an additional **traction aid** to move the vehicle-trailer combination across difficult camping terrain.

The **manoeuvring** of the trailers will also be made easier by integrating a manoeuvring aid into the smart electric drive.

Caravan fans can also look forward to greater **self-sufficiency**. Refrigerator, stove, air conditioning, entertainment and much more are literally "electrified" by the energy storage unit.

**Intelligent charging functions** such as active charging while driving or plug-in charging at home round off the convenient functions and the independence caravan-owners are accustomed to.

### **More connectivity**

New smart additional functions include effective **anti-theft protection** by activating the electric immobiliser, GPS tracking for **location**, visualisation of the vehicle combination's kilometres driven and reading out the **battery charge status**.

**Camera systems** facilitate coupling, manoeuvring and parking. These optional functions can be configured and controlled via **smartphone** using the AL-KO 2LINK app. This new connectivity further increases the joy of the future caravan.

### **ALOIS KOBER GMBH**

Founded in 1931, AL-KO Vehicle Technology is now a global technology company with over 30 sites in Europe, South America, Asia and Australia. With high-quality chassis components for trailers, leisure vehicles and light commercial vehicles, AL-KO represents the best in ergonomics and functionality, maximum comfort as well as innovations to ensure greater driving safety. The company specialises in sophisticated innovation processes and has received several awards in this regard.

AL-KO Vehicle Technology and Dexter Axle merged to form DexKo Global Inc. at the end of 2015. This combination is the world's largest manufacturer of trailer axles and chassis components in the lightweight segment. DexKo Global Inc. has a turnover of more than US\$ 1.5 billion.