

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KION North America Corporation wins safety championship**

**SUMMERTVILLE, S.C.** — KION North America Corporation won first place in the KION Group's 2014 cross-brand, interregional safety competition. The first corporate competition of its kind, more than 40 groups from around the world took part.

The purpose of the KION Group Safety Championship was to raise awareness, improve the management and employee safety culture and to reduce the unacceptably high accident rates. The criteria each site was judged on included: lost time injury frequency rate, lost time injury (accident involving an employee with an absence from work for more than 8 hours or one working day), health rate and site specific Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) measures/initiatives.

"Safety at work is a top priority for all employees at KION North America and part of our corporate culture," said Daniel Schlegel, vice president of operations. "I'm really excited and proud that the team in Summerville has been recognized by the KION Group as being the safest operation of 2014. We will celebrate this accomplishment, reflect and strive to make further improvements going forward."

KION Executive Board member Thomas Toepfer visited the Summerville plant to personally deliver the prize during a celebratory luncheon in recognition of the hard work of KION North America's roughly 140 employees.

The 2015 KION Safety Championship is already well underway. This year, the champion will be chosen based on the degree to which safety has improved since the previous year.



*Don Yanzer, industrial engineering manager, and Daniel Schlegel, vice president of operations, gave KION Group CFO Thomas Toepfer a tour around the production plant.*



Thomas Toepfer, chief financial officer the KION Group, and Vincent Halma, president and CEO of KION North America, addressed the KION North America team.



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Thomas Toepper, CFO of the KION Group, presented the 2014 KION Group Safety Championship Trophy to Vincent Halma, president & CEO of KION Group North America. Don Yanzer, who was the health, safety, and environment (HSE) manager during the time of 2014 competition, also received a special plaque in recognition of his individual efforts.



Following the award presentation, the KION North America team enjoyed a celebratory outdoor BBQ lunch as a thank you for their continued hard work.

### **KION North America Corporation**

KION North America Corporation is a member of the KION GROUP AG, the world's second largest manufacturer of industrial trucks. Their brand companies, Linde and STILL, serve the specific requirements of the U.S., Canadian and Mexican markets with a comprehensive and complementary product portfolio. Headquartered in Summerville, S.C., KION North America's production plant has an annual capacity of more than 10,000 trucks. Their products are known for their innovative technologies, low energy and low operating costs.

**Disclaimer**

This release contains forward-looking statements that are subject to various risks and uncertainties. Future results could differ materially from those described in these forward-looking statements due to certain factors, e.g. changes in business, economic and competitive conditions, regulatory reforms, results of technical studies, foreign exchange rate fluctuations, and the availability of financing. We do not undertake any responsibility to update the forward-looking statements in this release.