

► **News (16.01.2007)**

**Christmas donation 2006:**

**Kirson is already supporting future employees in kindergarten and primary school**

The first few days of the new year saw the feature and commentary pages of German newspapers full of reports on an impending scarcity in the next generation of researchers and engineers. With this in mind, Kirson GmbH made its Christmas donation last year while raising the question whether this company had found a means of successfully looking into the future. Kirson donated one to two so-called research kits from the Starnberg Science Lab to ten kindergartens and three primary schools in Neustadt an der Donau and Abensberg



Excerpt from the 9th January 2007 issue of the "Mittelbayerische Zeitung" newspaper

Kirson's attention was drawn to the Science Lab just over a year ago. The founders of the Science Lab had noticed that questions with a scientific background were seldom able to be answered in German kindergartens and primary schools. This knowledge formed the basis of the creation of the private initiative "Science Lab" in 2002. To provide the teachers with the skills needed, the Science Lab developed an age-based system of courses. Using the methodology of question-based learning, children aged four and up come into contact with the sciences for the first time.

When news about this concept initially reached Kirson, the management board was immediately enthusiastic. They regretted not having decided earlier to support childcare and education facilities near to the company with a donation at Christmas instead of sending Christmas presents to their customers.

As a company which must compete on an international level and can only assert its position with innovative products and services, Kirson was easily convinced that this was a way of arousing enthusiasm about science and technology in children at a very young age. Our experience had already shown us that new trainees often showed very little interest in scientific associations. If the examination of such subjects in early youth were to contribute to arousing more curiosity then, in the future, it would be tantamount to killing two birds with one stone.



Making a wind turbine for a primary school teacher's weather station

For this reason, the decision to donate Science Lab research kits to primary schools and kindergartens in the towns of Neustadt and Abensberg, where more than half of the workforce lives, was swiftly made. So that the teachers know how to work with the contents of their research kits, the Science Lab offers a one-day training course which explains how to present the examined scientific associations on a didactical level.



**The effects of wind and erosion can also be reproduced with balloons**

In two events organised by Kirson, the teachers can slip into the role of a young researcher for a day. Even the adults experienced a number of "eureka" revelations during the course of training! When given a salt or sugar solution, not all of them knew on the spur of the moment how to separate the salt or sugar from the water.

With the research kit for primary schools, the children learn how to build simple meteorological measuring devices using items found in every household. At the same time, it is possible to learn how different weather phenomena occur.

In a letter Kirson received from one of the participating primary schools after the event, the following statement was made, "Your preoccupation to promote mathematical-scientific knowledge, and clarify associations, entirely corresponds to our target perspectives, particularly since scientifically-founded thought structures are fundamental learning requirements in the social learning process."

The research kits including training cost Kirson GmbH a total of € 9,500. A further € 3,000 was spent on € 250 cheques handed over to the kindergartens and primary schools.

We at Kirson GmbH are convinced that, with this donation, we have invested in the future of Germany and in the skills of young people. Perhaps one of the children

whose interest in the sciences has been aroused in kindergarten or primary school with the aid of the research kits from Science Lab will one day have an apprenticeship position or job at Kirson.



**Just how is it possible to separate sugar from water again?**

[Link to Science Lab](#)