J.G. Weisser Söhne GmbH & Co. KG Rescued – Management Takes Over Traditional Engineering Firm

- Successful management buyout secures the long-term future of the St. Georgen-based machinery manufacturer.
- A leadership team consisting of four managers takes over business operations at the site and will operate under the name J.G. Weisser GmbH moving forward.
- No further layoffs are planned.
- Intensive restructuring phase successfully completed.

St. Georgen / Stuttgart, July 9, 2026. Traditional machinery manufacturer J.G. Weisser Söhne GmbH & Co. KG has achieved a decisive breakthrough and is officially rescued. The contractual agreement for a comprehensive corporate restructuring and continuity solution has been officially notarized. Under a management buyout (MBO), a consortium of four long-standing executives is taking over ownership and leadership to steer the company into a stable future.

Over the past few weeks, the acquiring managers developed a viable, future-oriented business continuity plan that enjoys the full support of the company's key customers. A particularly positive aspect of this restructuring solution is that the new business strategy eliminates the need for additional layoffs. Consequently, the jobs of the 156-strong workforce at the St. Georgen facility have been secured for the long term. Furthermore, the company has secured a series of substantial and follow-on orders. J.G. Weisser is thus launching into its new era of independence backed by a solid financial foundation and high planning stability.

Tremendous Relief and Gratitude to the Entire Team

The company's Chief Restructuring Officers (Generalbevollmächtigte), Markus Fauser and Tobias Wahl of Anchor Rechtsanwälte—who, together with David Blum (also of Anchor), have intensively guided and managed the complex turnaround and corporate restructuring process since the initial filing—expressed deep satisfaction with the outcome of the negotiations. "There is an immense and absolutely justified sense of joy across the entire team that a viable and sustainable solution has finally been found for J.G. Weisser Söhne after such a long and intense period of uncertainty," stated Markus Fauser.

"The orderly continuation of business operations under self-administration insolvency proceedings lasted for a total of 21 months. Throughout this exceptionally long and challenging period, many customers remained steadfastly loyal, as did our employees, who demonstrated full commitment every single day despite the heavy burden. This outstanding result was only possible thanks to an extraordinary, unified team effort from all stakeholders. I would therefore like to express my sincere and explicit gratitude to everyone involved: the employees, customers, suppliers, and, of course, the creditors who constructively supported this path. We achieved an excellent result here under the toughest baseline conditions and in a highly volatile market environment because we never lost faith in the restructuring viability of this great company," Fauser concluded.

A Heritage Company with Deep Roots in the Black Forest

J.G. Weisser Söhne GmbH & Co. KG boasts an impressive history deeply rooted in the region, dating back to 1830. In 1856, the J.G. Weisser Söhne machinery factory was officially founded in St. Georgen, marking the beginning of the industrial-scale, mass production of machinery and tools. Over the following decades and generations, the company developed internationally recognized, top-tier expertise in engineering and manufacturing high-precision, multi-functional turning centers as well as highly complex automation solutions.

The machinery manufacturer's key global clients include leading automotive companies—particularly renowned Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)—as well as prominent players in aerospace, maritime, energy, defense, and high-end medical technology. However, against the backdrop of global crises, the technology leader ran into severe headwinds. During the COVID-19 pandemic, J.G. Weisser Söhne suffered heavily from global supply chain disruptions and drastic increases in material costs. When its US-based parent company, Hardinge, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the summer of 2024, financial backing for the German subsidiary abruptly collapsed, making a filing for under self-administration insolvency proceedings (Eigenverwaltung) unavoidable in September 2024.

A Challenging Turnaround Road with Hard Cutbacks

The subsequent restructuring process proved to be extraordinarily complex and demanded significant efforts from all parties involved. However, the turnaround team—led by Anchor and local management, including Mr. Ansgar Lienert acting as Interim Manager and Chief Restructuring Officer (CRO)—successfully stabilized the trust of core customers. By strategically securing key new machine orders during the insolvency proceedings, production capacity utilization was maintained for many months, keeping operations stable. In parallel with the structured, global investor search, the leadership team continually drafted alternative corporate continuity scenarios, which ultimately paved the way for the successfully executed management buyout.

Looking to the Future with Confidence

The new ownership and executive consortium sees an excellent starting position for a fresh start outside of court supervision. "The economic core of J.G. Weisser and the immense technological expertise within our workforce remain in high demand across international markets—providing an excellent foundation for the coming years," the buyers stated on behalf of Ansgar Lienert. "Moving forward, we intend to purposefully develop the company, strengthen our innovative power in automation, and remain a reliable partner for our global clientele. We are particularly proud to have the full backing of the entire remaining team as we embark on this new chapter together."

Successful Conclusion Thanks to Teamwork

The court-appointed supervisor (Sachwalter), attorney Marc-Philippe Hornung from the law firm SZA Schilling Zutt & Anschütz—who closely accompanied and monitored the proceedings from start to finish in the interest of the creditors—also expressed relief: "I am extremely pleased that such a positive outcome has been achieved at the end of this demanding process, as this was truly not an easy road for anyone involved. My deep thanks also go to the workforce, customers, and partners for their patience and consistently constructive cooperation toward a collaborative restructuring." Court-appointed supervisor Marc-Philippe Hornung was assisted by SZA restructuring and insolvency expert Katja Schmitt."

Experienced Advisory Team

The complex transaction was supported by an experienced team of advisors: Legal counsel and transaction advisory services were led by Dr. Hendrik Boss (Partner) along with his team, Julia Siedhoff and Christian Benko, from the law firm Taylor Wessing. Business and financial restructuring advisory services were handled by Lars Steinhagen (Partner) and the expert team at allea consult. The international management consultancy Roland Berger supported the M&A process under the leadership of Christoph Burckhart (Partner) and Philipp Broscheid (Project Manager).

Team Anchor Rechtsanwälte:

Markus Fauser, restructuring managing director

Tobias Wahl, restructuring managing director

David Blum, lawyer

About Anchor

Anchor is a hybrid of a law firm and a management consultancy. With 15 locations and more than 200 employees in the fields of insolvency and corporate restructuring, the firm is one of the large restructuring units across Germany. Anchor has guided and restructured numerous larger companies both within and outside of insolvency proceedings.

Anchor's lawyers are regularly proposed and appointed as insolvency administrators, trustees, or restructuring managing directors in insolvency, self-administration, and protective shield (Schutzschirm) proceedings. Anchor Management is well-known for its commercial restructuring advisory services, interim management, and distressed M&A consulting. In its advisory mandates, Anchor combines legal expertise with commercial know-how.

About SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

For more than a century, SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz has been one of the most respected German corporate law firms. With its attorneys and offices in Frankfurt, Mannheim, Munich, and Brussels, the firm advises national and international clients on complex corporate and commercial law matters.

About J.G. Weisser Söhne

The WEISSER Group, headquartered in St. Georgen, is a specialist in turning centers and a leader in developing cutting-edge manufacturing methods. Years of R&D have yielded numerous patents and machine concepts that have revolutionized the machining world. Solutions are always tailor-made to customer needs and highly automated. The group maintains a global footprint through sales and service subsidiaries as well as commercial agencies. In addition, WEISSER develops innovative laser systems. Its largest customer segments are the automotive industry, followed by aerospace, maritime, energy, and defense. https://www.weisser-web.com/

About Roland Berger

Roland Berger is the only leading global strategy consultancy of European origin. The firm combines deep industry expertise with broad experience across core management functions and transformation programs. Founded in 1967 and headquartered in Munich, Roland Berger supports companies worldwide in shaping and executing complex transformations – from strategic repositioning and performance improvement to the development and application of data-driven, AI-enabled solutions. The firm is committed to embedding sustainability across all its projects. In 2025, Roland Berger generated revenues of over EUR 1 billion.

About allea consult

The experts at allea have spent many years supporting companies in distressed situations, standard insolvency proceedings, and debtor-in-possession proceedings (§ 270 InsO) on financial and commercial matters, corporate turnarounds, and M&A projects. Having managed more than 50 ongoing business continuations, the team of nearly 40 professionals routinely demonstrates its specialized expertise across a wide range of industries throughout Southern Germany. Lars Steinhagen, the partner in charge, was particularly supported during this 21-month project by Justin Weiland, Jens Forker, Elena Iwaschkin, and Andreas Hummel.

About Taylor Wessing

The international law firm Taylor Wessing is renowned for outstanding legal advice – thorough, comprehensive, and at the same time sharply focused on what matters most. Guided by the principle “Challenge expectation, together,” Taylor Wessing is committed to questioning conventional thinking and looking beyond the obvious. By working closely with clients, the firm develops solutions that create sustainable, long-term value. This approach is particularly evident in the sectors shaping the future of the digital economy: Technology, Life Sciences & Healthcare, Real Estate, Infrastructure & Energy, Private Equity, and Private Wealth. Taylor Wessing helps clients harness the opportunities presented by tomorrow’s technologies and actively shape the future development of their businesses.

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