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“NO SIGN OF A TRAFFIC REVOLUTION: WE ARE STEERING TOWARDS MOBILITY CHAOS”

Michael Groneberg from KLAUS Multiparking calls for caution in urban planning

Aitrach (jm).

The mobility turnaround is on everyone's lips as part of an even bigger transformation of public traffic, and city planners and politicians all over Germany are discussing how to significantly reduce pollution and environmental impact. Municipal authorities everywhere are being challenged to expand public transport, create sufficient and safe infrastructure for bicycles and, in the long term, to make city centers completely car-free. “This approach is important and right, but it will take at least another 20 to 30 years before the framework conditions for a genuine mobility and transport revolution are in place. We currently have a completely different problem: instead of a traffic revolution, we are heading towards a complete mobility chaos. Instead of fewer vehicles, more and more vehicles are flooding into city centers - and solutions need to be found. These solutions are better, more intelligent and easier to implement than many people think,” says Michael Groneberg, Managing Director of KLAUS Multiparking GmbH, based in Aitrach.

More and more vehicles need to be accommodated

The current figures prove Groneberg right: according to the German Federal Motor Transport Authority, 2.84 million new registrations were issued in Germany in 2023 alone - seven percent more than in 2022. “We

musn't close our eyes to this. We will continue to be dependent on sufficient parking facilities in the future. Both in cramped city centers and in increasingly densely populated residential areas," says Groneberg.

Innovative parking solutions

Like other suppliers, KLAUS Multiparking has developed innovative parking systems that fit the current trend in modern urban planning like a glove. "Inner-city densification and the avoidance of land sealing have long been part of our way of thinking. We continue to work every day to ensure that parking spaces can be created as efficiently as possible in the smallest of spaces and in a way that conserves resources," explains Groneberg. Whether in simple two-storey garages for private homes or on a large scale in underground garages: with duplex parkers and semi-automatic or fully automatic parking systems, the number of parking spaces can be doubled in some cases, so that even particularly strict parking space guidelines can be met.

Municipal authorities on the wrong track

"This greatly benefits urban planners and building authorities, as they can preserve valuable green spaces and create new ones. I therefore find it all the more unbelievable that some municipalities are currently changing their parking space regulations and want to weight parking spaces less heavily or even with a factor of zero. They are entirely on the wrong track, because this means that green spaces are being sacrificed unnecessarily and land consumption is increasing rather than decreasing."

One example is Maisach near Fürstfeldbruck in Upper Bavaria: as the local media reported, the local council preferred to sacrifice three large old beech trees when building four terraced houses rather than allow double parking spaces. "That really hurts my soul. It's a shame that far

too many trees are cut down for building projects without any sense or reason. At least one of the old trees in Maisach could easily have been saved if duplex parking spaces had been used instead of single parking spaces. This was a completely unnecessary sealing of space," Groneberg explains angrily.

Municipalities seal too many areas

This example is not an isolated case. The municipality of Pfaffing (Rosenheim district) changed its parking space regulations in spring 2024, ensuring that parking spaces realized via duplex garages will only be weighted with a factor of 0.75 in the parking space calculation in future. "Builders are thus forced to build individual parking spaces here too. They will have to seal significantly more space than would actually be necessary. I just can't believe that," says Groneberg. The parking space specialist recognizes a great deal of uncertainty in the town halls which – as in Pfaffing – repeatedly leads to actionism and incomprehensible decisions.

Cars are getting bigger and heavier

Parking systems are becoming increasingly innovative and, of course, more powerful. And with good reason, as traffic on German roads is getting heavier and heavier: almost 1.18 million off-road vehicles and SUVs are among the 2.84 million new registrations in 2023. Almost half of all newly registered cars in 2023 are also equipped with an alternative drive system. The trend is therefore towards ever larger and heavier cars - also because e-mobility is becoming increasingly relevant: "Due to their batteries, electric cars are on average several hundred kilos heavier than combustion engines. It goes without saying that these developments must also be taken into account in the parking space. As a premium provider of parking systems, we are constantly working on taking current trends into account. For example, by ensuring that users can store even heavy cars weighing up to three tons on top of each

other. And charging points in the parking areas allow them to charge their electric cars conveniently while they park,” says Groneberg.

His demand to urban planners and politicians is clear: “Anyone thinking about housing today must include efficient parking in their planning more than ever before. There is no way around parking systems and duplex parking: This is the only way to stack cars in above-ground and underground garages rather than spreading them out across the width. They are therefore often the decisive factor in ensuring that the local parking space key is met and that construction projects can be implemented at all.”

More parking spaces in less space are worth it

Groneberg is fully aware that not only the official requirements, but also the return on investment must be ensured at the end of the day: “For investors and project companies, it is crucial to build as many apartments as possible on the given area and to make optimum use of the enclosed space. If you can sell or rent out more apartments, your return on investment is all the greater. However, more living space also means more parking spaces. This is precisely why intelligent parking systems are needed, which in some cases more than double the number of parking spaces and which can be planned and implemented particularly flexibly in new-build projects. Whether underground or above ground. Whether in a surface, rack, tower or pallet system. Really anything can be realized,” says Groneberg.

About KLAUS Multiparking GmbH:

With several hundred thousand realized parking spaces and 65 sales partners on all continents, KLAUS Multiparking, based in Aitrach (Baden-Württemberg), is one of the leading providers of car parking systems. KLAUS Multiparking offers innovative solutions for dependent and independent parking, for example KLAUS double parkers, duplex parkers and KLAUS stack parkers. The company is best known for its MultiBase

multiparker, the semi-automatic TrendVario parking systems and the various fully automatic MasterVario parking systems, which enable space-saving parking as shelf, tower or surface systems. The SingleVario single platform, the ParkDisc turntable and various underfloor systems are also part of the product range.

All multi-parking solutions have been manufactured in Germany to the highest quality standards for 60 years. Premium parking systems from KLAUS Multiparking are tailored to individual requirements. They make efficient use of the available space and enable convenient parking and retrieval.

KLAUS Multiparking employs around 230 people at its production plant in Aitrach. The company has already received awards for its innovative ideas, such as the MultiVario parking system, including the Baden-Württemberg Innovation Award. The history of KLAUS Multiparking GmbH goes back to 1907, when KLAUS was founded as a wainwright's workshop in Bad Tölz (Bavaria). KLAUS Multiparking has been producing parking systems since 1964.

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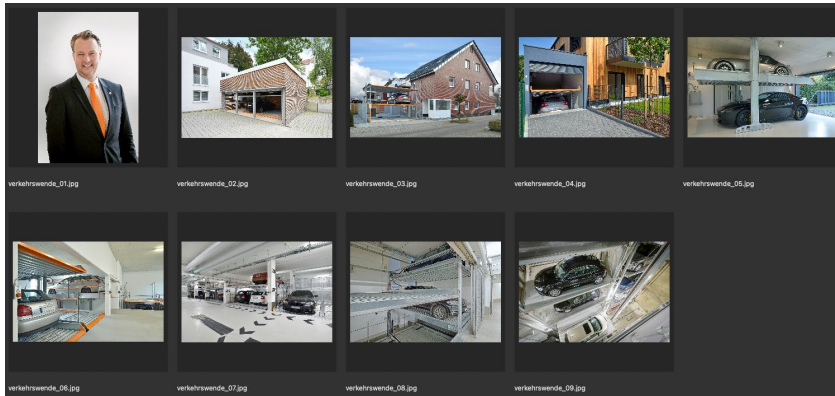
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Captions:

verkehrswende_01.jpg

Michael Groneberg, Managing Director of KLAUS Multiparking GmbH from Aitrach. Photo: KLAUS Multiparking

verkehrswende_02.jpg

With modern parking systems, building owners can create many parking spaces even on properties. This is possible with the semi-automatic TrendVario 6200+ system from KLAUS Multiparking, here at a residential building in Dresden. Photo: KLAUS Multiparking

verkehrswende_03.jpg

If there is not enough space on the property to park several vehicles next to each other, duplex parkers store the cars on top of each other, like the MultiBase G63 in Coesfeld. Photo: KLAUS Multiparking

verkehrswende_04.jpg

Duplex garages multiply the parking space in a small area and offer car owners added security thanks to the garage door. Pictured here: The MultiBase 2078i from KLAUS Multiparking at a residential building in Munich. Photo: KLAUS Multiparking

verkehrswende_05.jpg

Many garages can also be retrofitted with a parking system to create a

two-storey garage. The SingleVario 2061 in a garage in Krefeld shows how it can be done. Photo: KLAUS Multiparking

verkehrswende_06.jpg

With the MultiBase 2072i, car owners can retrieve their vehicle at any time at the touch of a button thanks to the flexible shifting downwards into the pit and upwards. Photo: KLAUS Multiparking

verkehrswende_08.jpg

For a maximum of parking space capacity, semi-automatic systems such as the TrendVario 6300 move vehicles down into the pit, within the middle level, and also upwards. The requested parking space is brought to the car owner at the touch of a button. Photo: KLAUS Multiparking

verkehrswende_09.jpg

With fully automated parking systems, drivers simply park their vehicle in the entrance box and leave the rest to the parking system. Advantage for building owners: The large number of parking spaces saves building costs, boosts income from parking facilities and increases the value of the property. Photo: KLAUS Multiparking