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The Unimog Competitor

The company Maschinenfabrik Gebr. Kramer GmbH did its first steps in the market of tractor units in 1956. The reason behind was the intention to build up a second mainstay beside the one existing business unit of agricultural tractors. The management acknowledged the then-demand for powerful tractor units, especially from travelling performers, fairground operators, farmers with landholding, forest and construction businesses, and part load traffic. The great interest in short and strong tractor units resulted on the possibility of higher travel speeds, compared to agricultural tractors at that time, and on driving license regulations that allowed a truck/ trailer combination with two big trailers.

Kramer initially launched the type KA 540, later followed by the models U540 and U800 starting from 1959. The "U" within the type designation simply stood for "universal" and the number behind gave indication of the engine performance multiplied by the factor

of 10, therefore the U540 had a engine with 54 hp and the U800 one with 80 hp. The engine was purchased from the company Deutz. At the beginning designated with the abbreviation F6L712, the 5.1-liter six-cylinder aspirated engine was shipped under the designation F6L812 starting from 1964. One year after the launch the model was available with all-wheel drive and according to the customers' request with a long - 2.8 meter - or a short - 2.1 meter - wheelbase. The long version additionally offered the customer the alternative of a conventional or an extended version of the driver's cabin. Initially the open driver's cabin with the two-part windshield of the previous version was used, until it made way for a solid, closed driver's cab in 1962.

Between 1959 and the cessation of the production in 1965 altogether 365 all-wheel driven and 36 rear-wheel driven versions of the Kramer U800 were built.

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