

**SCHRACK
SECONET**

For all
that matters.

Because life's just better
when you feel safe.

Protecting lives, securing values in the fields
of Fire Alarm and Health Care.

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CUSTOMER MAGAZINE OF SCHRACK SECONET

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fire&care





Editorial

Dear readers,

Around the turn of the year, we often think about change. We look back on the events of the last few months and formulate goals, resolutions and sometimes even bigger plans for the coming period. Of course, the turn of the year is a good time to think about changes. But we easily overlook this: Every day offers us the chance to start something new - or to let go of something.

It is also clear: We are constantly changing, regardless of whether we actively shape it or simply let it happen. For our company, too, change is not an exceptional state around the turn of the year, but a constant companion - in technological progress as well as in cooperation with our customers.

Rethinking security

At Schrack Seconet, it goes without saying that the signs point to change in 2026. In the Fire Alarm division, for example, we are breaking new ground with the operating panel Integral IMAP. We have retained the proven operating logic but integrated completely new features and significantly simplified handling. The Red Dot Award and the German Design Award, with which Integral IMAP was honoured, show how well this has been achieved. The new operating panel is a prime example of how we are taking innovation further to make security even more precise and reliable for the future.

At the same time, we are pressing ahead with our strategic development. In the Health Care division, we have been working continuously for a long time to align our systems with the major challenges in the health care sector - whether it is the shortage of skilled labour or the increasing requirements for security and quality of care. Another step in this direction is our new partnership with the Viennese health tech company cogvis: Its 3D sensors can now be integrated into our Carechamp care assistance system and help to quickly detect falls in care rooms. This is how technological innovation creates more security for people who need support.

Openness to new paths

For us at Schrack Seconet, change does not mean breaking with the status quo, but rather further developing what has proven its worth. We would like to start the new year together with you with this image: with trust in our partnership and cooperation, with enthusiasm for innovation and with the openness to break new ground.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Yours, Wolfgang Kern

IMPRINT

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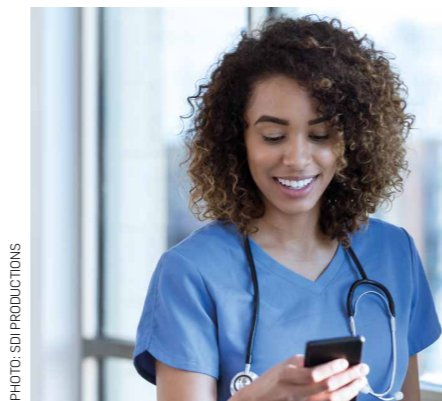


PHOTO: SDI PRODUCTIONS

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Interview with: Security specialist Gerhard Harand



PHOTO: KARL GRABHERR

The ASD 200x is the next generation of the tried-and-tested aspirating smoke detector. Based on the experience gained from thousands of projects with the ASD 535, a completely new system has been developed. The four core ideas of simplicity, connectivity, reliability and performance took centre stage. The ASD 200x generation comes with numerous improvements and is tailored to the requirements of modern fire alarm technology.

Powerful and quiet



1 Commissioning
New apps guide you through planning and installation and make commissioning easier than ever before. The 3D planning tool PipeFlow 3.0 has been comprehensively revised and impresses with its efficient and intuitive workflow. The new ASD Service configuration app can automatically read all calculated parameters from the finished calculation report in PDF format. This enables commissioning of the ASD in under two minutes.

2 Internal filter
The smoke sensor now has a centrifugal separator. This divides the air flow so that heavy particles such as dust are forced outwards and past the detector chamber. Only 20 % of the air drawn in flows through the smoke sensor. The resulting reduced contamination avoids deceptive alarms and increases the service life. The device uses proven 90-degree scattered light technology to detect smoke reliably and at an early stage. However, the sensitivity was further increased: The maximum sensitivity is now 0.001 % per metre.

3 Air flow measurement
The air flow measurement works with a new technology: An innovative, ultrasonic-based sensor system is insensitive to contamination and temperature fluctuations, thus ensuring maximum reliability and stability. It is now possible to measure not only relative but also absolute values in litres per minute.

4 Performance
Thanks to the sensitive sensors and the more powerful fan, up to 400 metres of pipe can now be monitored per smoke sensor. This means that even large applications can be covered. At 21 dB, the ASD 200x is also one of the quietest aspirating smoke detectors on the market. This is particularly useful in sensitive environments such as false ceilings in offices or museums. However, the ASD 200x also reliably ensures the earliest possible fire detection in all other areas of application. All ASD 535 pipe network components are compatible with the new generation, making it easy to modernise to the new generation.

5 Operation
The new ASD 200x also impresses during operation: It is simple and intuitive to use. The case does not usually need to be opened for maintenance, as all information about the device can be read out via the Bluetooth app. Thanks to click technology, components can almost always be replaced without tools. The insect screens can also be easily cleaned without opening the case. *

Clear processes, more time for what matters

Many people are involved in the care process – the more efficient and reliable the communication between them, the better the quality of care. Visocall Mobile offers decisive advantages in this area: Patients or residents and the care team remain in contact at all times via the app – in hospitals as well as in retirement and nursing homes or psychiatric facilities.

Relief in challenging everyday life

Visocall Mobile brings a decisive plus to care processes and is therefore a perfect complement to the Visocall IP communication system. Patients or residents and the care team remain in contact at all times via the app. The work mobile phone, which many nursing staff already



PHOTO: TATIANA GORSHENINA / ADOBE STOCK

have anyway, is the central communication tool.

React faster, prioritise better

When a call is received, nursing staff automatically receive a push message on their smartphone. Instead of rushing straight to the bed, they can establish a direct speech connection with the patient. It is also possible to forward a call to colleagues or discuss the message with them. Many issues can be clarified more quickly and priori-

In Latvia's capital Riga, the Maternity Hospital opted for Visocall Mobile. The app now increases the quality of care, saves time and walks and reduces stress in everyday hospital life.

tised better: Is it an acute situation or a wish that can be postponed? Visocall Mobile has even more features: For example, the app also provides an overview of all calls, enables reminder settings and uses a room overview to provide information on where colleagues are currently located. This allows nursing staff to keep an eye on what is happening on the ward at all times via mobile phone – no matter where they are.

Digital support for nursing staff

Visocall Mobile thus creates flexibility and ensures that decisions can be made in a more targeted manner. The optimised workflow saves valuable time and resources: Nursing staff often travel up to 15 kilometres per shift. Some of this can be avoided or organised more rationally. The app is therefore a



PHOTO: SDI PRODUCTIONS

Visocall Mobile

Taking the digital burden off care

Mobile App

As an add-on to the Visocall IP communication system

Flexible

Anytime and anywhere: Answering calls and speech connections

Platforms & Languages

Download in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store – 12 languages



ILLUSTRATION: NADIA BORMOTOVA / ISTOCK

Visocall Mobile at the St. Johann retirement home in Salzburg: Real-time information and direct speech connections are a real benefit for nursing staff.



PHOTO: SENIORENHEIM ST. JOHANN

valuable support, especially in times of a shortage of skilled labour: It helps to maintain the quality of care even when wards are short-staffed and to reduce the workload.

Retirement home in Salzburg

Visocall IP is required as the basis for using the app. The retirement home in St. Johann im Pongau, for example, used a modernisation to their communication system from Schrack Seconet to introduce Visocall Mobile at the same time. The company initially evaluated various options. The guarantee of long-term services and a concept with the C-bus fieldbus system convinced the management of the retirement home in St. Johann to implement the modernisation with Schrack Seconet. The existing cabling structures were largely retained, and the changeover times were kept short.

The conversion then took place during ongoing operations with continuous 24-hour care. The rooms were integrated step by step. The success of this ambitious plan was primarily due to close coordination

Keeping in touch is one of the most important prerequisites for smooth processes in healthcare facilities – Visocall Mobile is a solution that is precisely tailored to the requirements of hospitals and nursing homes.

and reliable project realisation. With the switch to Visocall IP, Visocall Mobile was also launched. The innovative app is now an ideal support for nursing staff. The real-time information and direct speech connections to the almost 100 patient rooms are greatly appreciated by them.

Largest maternity clinic in Latvia

Just as in the care sector, Visocall Mobile also provides important relief in hospitals. In Latvia, the Riga Maternity Hospital has decided to use the app. With 5,000 deliveries per year, it is the largest obstetrics centre in the country. Visocall IP has been in use there for some time. The hospital has now decided to go one step further and additionally introduce Visocall Mobile. Experiences in practice show that the Riga Maternity Hospital can organise shift times and activities even more efficiently with the innovative app. A key success factor proved to be actively involving the most important users in the introduction of Visocall Mobile and convincing them of the benefits of the

solution right from the start. After a few months of experience, the feedback from the nursing staff was clearly positive: The additional flexibility and time savings are particularly emphasised.

Upgrading the quality of care

The examples of the St. Johann retirement home and the Riga Maternity Hospital show that Visocall Mobile proves its worth in very different usage scenarios. Nursing homes and hospitals are thus taking a step towards digitally supported care. Unnecessary walks are avoided, communication is simplified, and staff gain valuable time for actual care. The security factor is not neglected either: As an on-premise solution, Visocall Mobile stores all sensitive data locally in the organisation. *

Innovative protection for an international flagship project

The Registan Square in Samarkand is one of the most impressive sights in the Islamic world and has already attracted many visitors to Samarkand. The new Silk Road Samarkand touristic complex with eight hotels now makes visiting even more convenient and comfortable.

PHOTO: OZBALGI / ISTOCK

The Silk Road Samarkand touristic complex impresses not only with its size, but also with its high safety standards. Schrack Seconet was responsible for fire protection in accordance with the latest standards.

The Silk Road Samarkand touristic complex in Uzbekistan sets new standards in its dimensions – Schrack Seconet was the partner for fire protection and realised systems according to the latest standards.

Just 20 minutes from the historic centre of Samarkand, the Silk Road Samarkand touristic complex is a completely new district. The project combines an international congress centre, eight hotels and extensive leisure facilities on a 260-hectare site. Timeless oriental elegance connects with modern state-of-the-art furnishings to create an ensemble that is unrivalled in Central Asia.

Bigger, more secure, more exclusive

Silk Road Samarkand is therefore an ideal starting point for discovering the region and its fantastic cultural assets, but not only that: The concept of the touristic complex also addresses business travellers and medical and wellness tourists. There are eight hotels on the site with a total capacity of 1,200 rooms, covering a wide range of needs – including the first Leading Hotels of the World property in Central Asia, which meets the most exclusive requirements. In addition, there is the largest conference centre in Central Asia with 13 conference rooms that can accommodate 3,500 people.



PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

Kirsch, Area Sales Manager at Schrack Seconet, and her local business partner had just had a meeting with a major investor in the project. “When it comes to a project of this size, trust in your partner is a decisive factor – and that’s where our company philosophy really came into its own. Because we don’t just want to sell and supply fire alarm systems, we are fully committed to their successful commissioning and beyond. We had already proven this in an earlier project for the main investor. This gave us the confidence that we would also be able to realise the major Silk Road Samarkand project satisfactorily.”

A second key factor in Schrack Seconet being awarded the contract was the issue of scalability. For the general contractor, Enter Engineering, it was important to be sure that the partner could handle the size of this project and ensure timely completion. “We clarified this issue in a joint meeting – and have kept our commitment to this day. The congress centre and hotels were completed on time,” emphasises Larisa Kirsch.



“We had already demonstrated our full commitment in a previous project for the main investor. This gave us the confidence that we would also be able to realise the major Silk Road Samarkand project satisfactorily.”

Larisa Kirsch
Area Sales Manager
Schrack Seconet

Largest tourism project in Central Asia

More than 50,000 rose bushes and 30,000 trees were planted for the green areas on the site, and several canals were constructed, including a dedicated rowing canal. More than 10,000 specialists were involved in planning and realisation of the USD 580 million investment project. Schrack Seconet was part of the international project team that realised the largest tourism complex in Central Asia within just a few years. It was also the largest project that Schrack Seconet has ever realised in this region.

The trust factor

Silk Road Samarkand was launched on New Year’s Eve 2020. Larisa

Unlimited cooperation

However, the time frame was challenging. “We need everything ‘yesterday’ – that is a favourite expression in Central Asia,” says Larisa Kirsch with a smile. This means that the deadlines were generally short. Additionally to the time pressure, special efforts were also required to provide the necessary technical specialists on site. In both cases, Schrack Seconet’s good partner network proved to be a success factor.

In addition to the partner in Uzbekistan, support was also provided by partners in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Belarus. They worked together with full commitment to realise the project. And of course, the implementation of such a large project would not have been possible without the support of the Vienna team, who organised the rapid delivery of such a large amount of equipment.

Highest technical standards

Security was always a top priority at Silk Road Samarkand, especially regarding the international congresses with high-profile guests. Systems to the highest standards were therefore also required for fire protection. Anatolii Perepechkin of Schrack Seconet, responsible for technical support on the project, explains: “It was an outstanding project in which we were able to fully demonstrate our special technological potential. The conversion was quite a challenge for us – thanks to the technical knowledge of our partner, our human resources and a



“It was an outstanding project in which we were able to fully demonstrate our special technological potential. We also associate unforgettable memories and many enriching encounters with this project.”

Anatolii Perepechkin
Technical Support
Schrack Seconet

high level of time commitment, we were able to fulfil the requirements. Above all, however, we also associate unforgettable memories and many enriching encounters with this project.”

Anatolii Perepechkin and Larisa Kirsch were involved in the project from the start – as a well-coordinated duo and bridge between the customer and partners, they played a major role in the project’s success. Larisa Kirsch was also able to contribute her knowledge of the market and her understanding of the differences in mentality between Europe and Central Asia.

Opening with conference of the BRICS countries

A project of this magnitude means that many things change during implementation. At the same time, this makes realisation even more challenging. It took some effort – but in the end, what seemed almost unattainable was achieved: The buildings and fire protection were completed on time for the first international conference of the BRICS countries, which was attended by top international politicians. “The timely commissioning was real teamwork. It was not simply a professional milestone, but also a moment of pride and proof of the success of well-functioning cross-border cooperation,” recalls Larisa Kirsch.

Overview with Secolog IP

More than 19,000 MTD 533X multi sensor detectors are now installed in hotel rooms and other areas in the

PHOTOS: AMIRBEK MIRZAEV, DMY13 / ISTOCK



eight hotels and the congress centre. These are connected to a total of 48 fire alarm control panels. 2,900 modules also provide door controls and much more. In rooms with high ceilings and in other areas where conventional detectors cannot fulfil the normative requirements, 65 linear smoke detectors were also installed. In addition, all systems are permanently monitored via the Secolog IP alarm system.

Extension with Integral WAN

However, the project is not yet completed for Schrack Seconet: “We are still working on fine-tuning and further development. Our powerful, flexible Integral WAN network solution will soon be implemented,” reports Larisa Kirsch. For her, it is a project to which she feels particularly connected to: “It was a special experience to see Silk Road Samarkand come to life - and also to know how we contributed to this success.” *

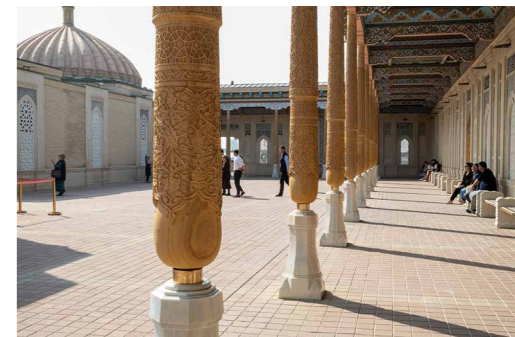


PHOTO: LEWIS TSE PULLING, TUNART / ISTOCK

There is hardly anywhere else where the charm of Central Asia can be experienced as impressively as in the historic old town of Samarkand. It is now complemented by the modern Silk Road Samarkand touristic centre.

**Touristic complex
Silk Road Samarkand**

- >19,000 multi sensor detector MTD 533X
- 48 fire alarm control panels (Integral IP and EvoxXM)
- 65 linear smoke detectors

Uzbekistan

- Capital: Tashkent
- Area: 448,978 km²
- Population: 37.5 Mio.



ILLUSTRATION: CHESSMANZ / ISTOCK

Detect fires where others fail

What is the innovative Thermal video fire detector, M73 all about? Lorenz Huber, Sales Development Manager and Thomas Engel, Product Specialist Fire Alarm, present the special features of the innovative product, which reliably detects fires even in difficult conditions.

Difficult ambient conditions, such as those found in industry or waste disposal facilities, pose a great challenge when it comes to detecting fires. The risk of overheating is often high, but reliable detection is difficult. At the same time, dust increases the contamination of the systems. With the Thermal video fire detector M73, there is now a solution for the early detection of fires in such situations. Through the detection of thermal radiation in the infrared range, the M73 makes temperature differences visible.

Flexible trigger criteria

“Conventional heat detectors only detect a rise in heat when the increased temperature reaches the detector. The Thermal video fire detector, on the other hand, detects a temperature increase at an early stage; even a very small change of 1 degree Celsius can be measured,” explains Lorenz Huber. “The alarm thresholds can be set very flexibly, and pre-alarms are also possible.



“The Thermal video fire detector M73 is certified to EN 54 and can therefore be integrated into a fire alarm system in a standard-compliant manner – a unique selling point that very few solutions offer.”

Lorenz Huber
Sales Development
Manager

The values are adapted to the specific conditions of the environment,” says Thomas Engel. The opening angle is also determined individually depending on the project. With a narrower angle, the video fire detector can still detect from further away, but the monitored area is smaller.

Highest protection class IP 66

A decisive argument in favour of the M73 is its robustness and reliability, even under the most adverse conditions. The video fire detector complies with the highest protection class IP 66 and is therefore perfect for unprotected outdoor areas and industrial applications with high dust and environmental influences. “Even dust does not harm the thermal camera. If visibility is impaired as a result, it is often difficult for the fire brigade to precisely localise the source of the fire. Here, too, the Thermal video fire detector can provide support and show exactly where to delete,” says Thomas Engel. The lenses of the sensors are also specially coated to prevent dust from sticking to them.

Intelligent zone monitoring

Another strength of the Thermal video fire detector is the many measuring ranges in the field of view: “A total of 20 zones are possible, and



PHOTO: BIM / ISTOCK

a separate temperature threshold can be defined for each zone. For example, 70 degree Celsius is defined as the alarm threshold in one zone and 10 degree Celsius in another. This can be useful in a packing line, for example, where freezing takes place immediately afterwards and the temperature conditions therefore differ greatly,” explains Lorenz Huber.

Optional optical video image

If there is actually an alarm, an additional optical video camera can make it easier to verify the fire. It can be optionally integrated into the case. “It is then easy to determine from a distance whether it is actually an

emergency,” emphasises Thomas Engel. The video fire detector’s thermal validation app is also very clever: “The software analyses the uniformity, movement and spread of the temperature increase. This allows vehicles and other disturbance sources to be recognised and errors to be ruled out,” explains Lorenz Huber. Thomas Engel adds: “It is also very helpful that the Thermal video fire detector records alarm events. This provides important insights when evaluating alarms.”

Certification according to EN 54

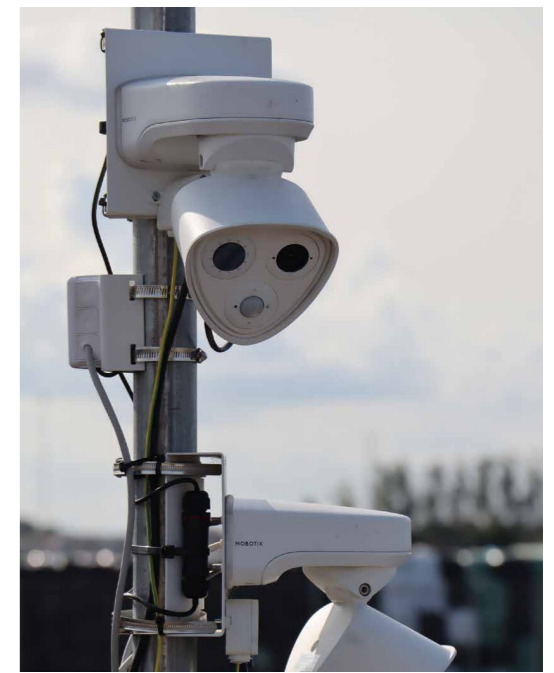
All data processing, including analyses, is carried out directly in the video fire detector. The infor-

mation is forwarded from there to a fire alarm control panel or a video management system – the M73 can be integrated into common systems via default interfaces. Lorenz Huber points out another advantage: “The Thermal video fire detector M73 is certified to EN 54 and can therefore be integrated into a fire alarm system in a standard-compliant manner – a unique selling point that very few solutions offer.

Extensive project experience

Schrack Seconet has already successfully realised projects with thermal cameras in several countries – including Austria, Poland, Hungary, Sweden and Serbia. Thanks

The Thermal video fire detector M73 uses robust technology for the early detection of fires. It is ideal for use in waste disposal plants and other difficult ambient conditions.



“It is very helpful that the Thermal video fire detector records alarm events as standard. This provides important insights when evaluating alarms.”

Thomas Engel
Product Specialist
Fire Alarm

to these many projects, there is already extensive experience with the system. “The planning of the thermal camera requires a similar approach to that of security cameras – for example with regard to fields of view, mounting positions and ambient conditions. At the same time, all relevant fire alarm technology requirements must be taken into account. It is precisely this combination of camera expertise and fire alarm technology that we have mastered very well thanks to our project experience,” emphasises Lorenz Huber. ✪

Solutions is Schrack Seconet's new digital companion for advice, planning and an initial overview. Access is possible online and offline.

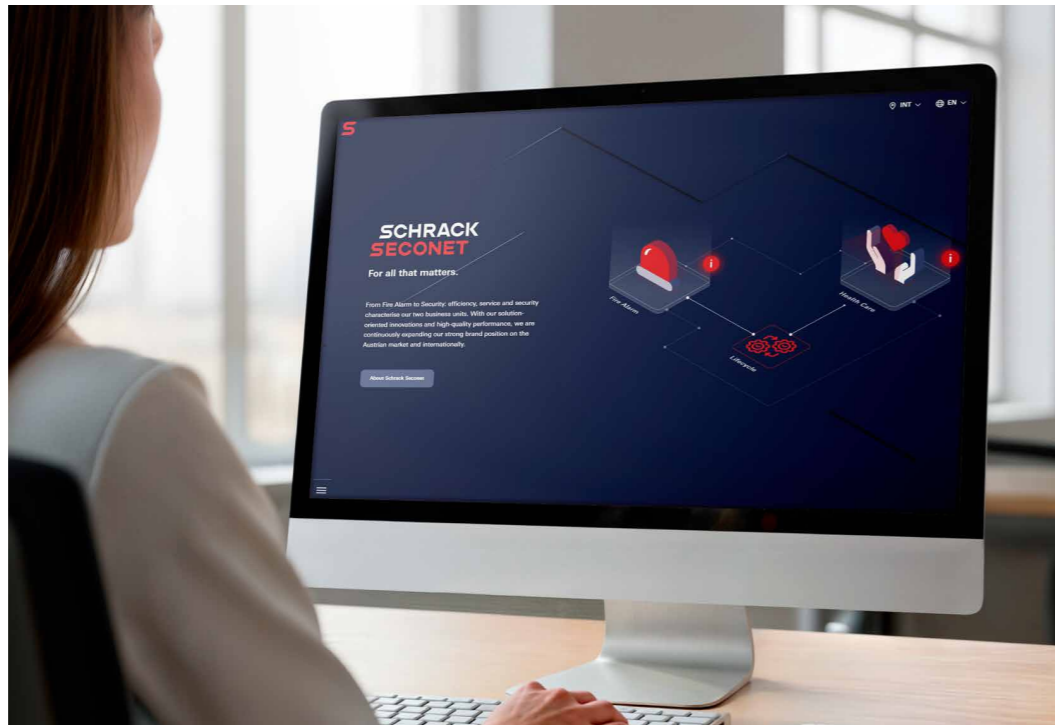


PHOTO: GUSTAVO COMUNELLO / ADOBE STOCK

Experience innovation

With the new web applications Solutions and the Schrack Seconet Experience presentation area, Schrack Seconet is setting new standards in self-presentation. Thanks to the new digital platform, there is no need to scroll through long PDFs or detailed descriptions to gain an insight into Schrack Seconet's complex systems. Solutions presents the offerings of the two business areas Fire Alarm and Health Care in a clear and accessible way, providing a concise overview of how they work in practice. Features, benefits and interfaces are clearly explained, and technology is visualised through interactive displays.

Digital platform

Solutions provides clear orientation that delivers answers anytime and anywhere – in a wide range of applications: Whether for end customers as initial information on a system or for partners to support them at an appointment or trade fair. This means that every collaboration starts efficiently and productively right from the start. Finally, a plus point in the practical use of Solutions

is also: It is easy to switch to the preferred language – German, English and Romanian are currently available. Other languages will gradually follow.

Authentic product demonstrations

Schrack Seconet Experience was launched at the same time as Solutions. The systems from the areas of Fire Alarm and Health Care are now showcased in an interactive and practical way across around 180 square metres at the Vienna headquarters. Each business unit will have its own area at Schrack Seconet Experience, where solutions will be presented in an application-oriented way. Practically all products can be experienced in function.

The entire range of the company is presented interactively and vividly on a generously designed presentation area. Pre-programmed moods are used to realise different experiences and focus on specific areas. Digital storytelling elements, practical use cases and interactive displays convey a vivid impression of how the solutions

work in use in Schrack Seconet Experience. Combined product demonstrations will also illustrate how the systems work together. An important part of the new concept is also the meeting zone, which invites people to exchange ideas and network: A flexible meeting room offers space for individual discussions and workshops. And a cosy bar and lounge area creates space for conversations in a relaxed atmosphere. *

Explore our systems with the new web application Solutions. Access the digital platform here:



Safety starts with clarity

augmented reality to guide users through the operation of Integral IMAP. Simply hold the smartphone in front of the operating panel and information will appear on the mobile display - explanations of button functions as well as instructions for operating procedures.

The second app is the Integral Mobile app, which has long been a central component of digital fire alarm systems. The design and reaction time have now been further optimised, and the look has been adapted to the new operating panel Integral IMAP. In addition, Integral Mobile can now be used as a permanently manned point for fault



Stefan Führer from Schrack Seconet Product Management, Alexander Schober, Head of Product Management, and Andreas Haumer from Product Management (from left): The new operating panel Integral IMAP enables a faster response in an emergency and helps to maintain an overview.

The new Integral IMAP is the modern heart of fire alarm systems. The innovative interface for fire alarm control panels and remote operating panels impresses with an even better overview, quick access to relevant information and a high level of user-friendliness.

More space for more information

At first glance, the significantly larger display compared to the previous operating panel is striking. In addition, a freely selectable QR code is displayed on the screen - a scan with the smartphone then calls up the customer service contact details or video tutorials, for example. Ten LEDs on the right side and the shortcut button are also very smart – all of which can be individually programmed.

Thanks to the intuitive operating logic, switching to the new interface is possible without extensive training. The changeover is also technically simple, as Integral IMAP is compatible with the existing system BUS and can be easily integrated from software version 9.1.

Apps for even more support

Two applications provide additional support for operation. The newly developed AR app uses

Integral IMAP makes the output of fire alarm systems even simpler and more secure. Important information can be accessed quickly and handling has been significantly simplified.

transmission in accordance with ÖNORM F 3000. The fact that Integral IMAP has taken a major step forward is also emphasised by two awards: The new operating panel has been honoured with both the Red Dot Award and the German Design Award. *

The previous and the new operating panel in direct comparison.



PHOTOS: KARL GRÄBHERR

Digital protective shield



ILLUSTRATION: NADIA BORMOTOVA / ISTOCK

Outdated systems open the door to cyberattacks – this also applies to fire alarm systems, healthcare communication systems and security solutions. Security expert Gerhard Harand spoke on the topic of cyber security at Schrack Seconet’s “Open Doors, Open Minds” event. In an interview with fire&care, he elaborates on key points of his presentation.

fire&care — *How has the importance of cyber security in security technology changed in recent years?*

Gerhard Harand — The awareness of the topic is clearly different today. The use of IP technology and networking has brought new risks as well as benefits. Fully integrated systems bring greater flexibility, better usability and new functions, but there is also the risk of attacks and this is also recognised. End customers are now paying more attention to cyber security. Regulations and standards, such as ISO 27001 certification, are also a driver. Companies that complete this audit must address the issue of IT security and assess cyber risks accordingly.

fire&care — *What basic measures should companies implement to better protect their security technology systems and networks?*

Gerhard Harand — With existing structures, it is very important to protect the networks. Segmentation with VLANs and firewalls ensures secure network access and protection against attacks. Ongoing monitoring and logging is also essential: How does a system behave? Are there any irregularities? If a system reacts strangely, this may be an indication that there is already a problem. Another key aspect of remote access

is the use of secure VPN connections. Passwords are an often overlooked topic – multi-factor authentication should be activated where possible. And, of course, system updates should be carried out regularly.

fire&care — *Regular updates are a matter of course for computer operating systems, but when it comes to security systems, people are not yet aware of this to the same extent, are they?*

Gerhard Harand — Yes, we are not yet where we should be, but the topic is already being taken more seriously, especially in larger enterprise structures. At a certain point, namely when there is no more maintenance in terms of security technology, systems have to be replaced. In the past, analogue products could simply be left in operation for many years after installation. That’s different today. If there are no more security updates, you will eventually have to switch. In addition to the hardware life cycle, there is also the software life cycle – just like with a server: If there are no more patches, it must be replaced.

fire&care — *In Aon’s international Global Risk Management Survey, risk managers and executives recently stated that they categorise a cyber attack as the greatest threat to their company. Do you share this assessment?*

Gerhard Harand — Yes, a cyberattack can have a significant impact on a company’s business operations and reputation and involves considerable costs when dealing with it. Threats have increased by 78% since 2022. The security systems may not be the primary target, but the issue should still be taken seriously. It doesn’t make sense to secure everything else but the security systems.

fire&care — *Cyber security is also a topic in the new EU directive CER (Critical Entities Resilience Directive). What will change here as a result of the new requirements?*

Gerhard Harand — CER is intended to increase the protection of resilience-critical facilities. In Austria, the “Resilience of Critical Facilities Act” was passed in autumn 2025. In addition to physical threats, affected companies must also address digital threats. It’s not just about external protection; companies also need to draw up risk assessments and resilience plans. The critical infrastructure now includes a total of eleven sectors. The experience of the coronavirus pandemic has shown – the scope needs to be broadened – the food sector, for example, has therefore also been included. The critical facilities are currently being identified and subsequently notified. The companies concerned must then begin implementing the new obligations by autumn 2026. ✱



PROFILE
Ing. Gerhard Harand, MSc, is Managing Director of WEHRHAN TPS Sicherheitstechnik

GmbH in Vienna and has over 20 years of international experience in security and risk management. In addition to his professional activities, he is a lecturer at the Danube University Krems.

PHOTO: WEHRHAN TPS

NDAA: GLOBAL STANDARD FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGIES

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In a world where security technologies are becoming increasingly complex and networked, standards are needed to create transparency and security for the supply chain. A standard that at first glance appears to be primarily a US-specific requirement sets the benchmark here: the NDAA (National Defense Authorisation Act).

It originally regulated purely the use of technologies in sensitive government projects and critical infrastructure in the USA in order to strengthen national security by excluding risky solutions. In practice, the NDAA has now developed into a global benchmark that is also becoming increasingly important in Austria and Europe.

Transparency in the supply chain

The reason is obvious: Planners and operators are guided by this because it creates component transparency and increases confidence in the supply chain. NDAA requirements are particularly prevalent in international corporations and critical infrastructures: They can be clearly checked from offer to acceptance, as series and

model comparison is based on a clear test logic.

More and more companies and organisations around the world are therefore following these guidelines because they reduce liability risks, simplify audits and strengthen confidence in the technologies used. Especially in times of increasing cyber threats, the origin of systems on a chip (SoCs) or modules is becoming a decisive factor.

Innovation and security

In practice, this means: The traceability of components must be checked and manufacturer declarations must be consistently demanded. This reliably enables complete documentation and minimises compliance risks. This is also our guiding principle at VIVOTEK. As a manufacturer of IP-based video surveillance solutions, we pursue a clear approach: Only NDAA-compliant technologies are used in our products. We consistently focus on "Design & Made in Taiwan", while at the same time our product lines comply with NDAA requirements. The US security

framework is therefore not an obstacle for us, but an added value that drives innovation and security.

Security as a competitive advantage

Those who use NDAA-compliant solutions benefit from more than just compliance. This encourages manufacturers to optimise their processes and gives customers the certainty that their investments are protected in the long term. Those who rely on NDAA-compliant products are opting for a future in which security and power go hand in hand. ✨



PROFILE

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PHOTO: VIVOTEK

CRIME SCENE: THE PHONE!



Lithium batteries pack an incredible amount of power. No wonder, because they have to store a lot of energy in a small space and thus supply smartphones, e-bikes, laptops and tablets. But many people don't realise this: Even a small drop, the wrong charger or too much heat can cause fine cracks on the inside. These damages can lead to dangerous short circuits during charging and, in the worst case, can even trigger a fire. Being vigilant pays off: If the smartphone case becomes deformed or the device becomes hot when switched off, it should be disposed of properly. To prevent this from happening in the first place, a few simple rules help. Rechargeable batteries preferably have original or certified chargers and a hard, non-flammable surface with good air circulation in the room where they are being charged. Continuous charging and extreme heat or cold should also be avoided. And the pro tip: Install a fire detector that activates the alarm in an emergency.