SCHRACK SECONET

fire&care

Integral EvoxX
The evolution of fire protection

Following on from Integral and Integral IP, **Integral EvoxX sets new standards** for fire alarm systems. Fitted with the latest technology, the system is perfectly equipped for all requirements, both current and future. With each new development, we place the highest value on functionality, safety and compatibility – and are always one step ahead of the times. Discover what it means when we think our concepts digitally and in a future-oriented way.

More information: **integral-evoxx.com**

Editorial

Dear customers and business partners, over the past months, so much has been different from what we are used to. The coronavirus has kept us going round in circles, endlessly it seems on some topics, and yet it has also catapulted us straight into the future when it comes to other topics. In the midst of this extraordinary year, Schrack Seconet also set its mind on completely different heights. On the one hand, we have developed a new positioning for our company, which we have presented to you in a special section at the end of this magazine. You will notice our new look more and more from now on. Our website already has a fresh new look, and in the coming weeks many other things will change, from our building to the stickers on our service vehicles.

Health care: a new era
This summer also brought a decisive change with the acquisition of CCS Care Communication Solutions GmbH. This is a clear signal that we want to continue to grow in the future market of health care. The company has a well-established partner network and with the two products ZETTLER Medicall 800 and EZ CARE two excellently placed products. In this way, Schrack Seconet is further strengthening its range of solutions for hospitals, nursing homes and prisons – our customers can count on even better services and innovative products in the future. Read more opposite on page 3.

Best practice: security technology of the future
In this issue of our customer magazine, we also present more details about Integral EvoxX. The fire alarm system of a completely new generation takes all trends in security technology into account – more details on this from page 10. The projects we present from page 4 onwards are also particularly exciting: from the world's largest supercomputer in Finland to the pharmaceutical manufacturer Boehringer Ingelheim in Vienna and hospitals in Thailand.

Finally, in the article that starts on page 14, we look at fire protection for fire stations: no one wants to experience an emergency in their own building, but the risk is high due to the large number of electronic devices there. As a result, Schrack Seconet has developed its own solution package especially for fire brigades.

Enjoy your read,

Yours truly, Wolfgang Kern

PHOTO: SAMULI ROSENBERG

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Content

PHOTO: FREIWILLIGE FEUERWEHR SCHWADORF

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STRONG INDIVIDUALLY, BUT #STRONGER TOGETHER

Anyone who receives care in an Austrian health care facility probably uses a system from Schrack Seconet. The company is already a market leader in Austria for communication systems in the health care sector and is also present with products and solutions in over 70 countries. By acquiring 100% of the company shares, the Schrack Seconet family has now been expanded to include CCS Care Communication Solutions GmbH. The company has locations in Vienna and Munich as well as a well-established international sales network. Around 12,500 facilities worldwide are equipped with CCS solutions specifically developed for the health care market. The common goal: To become the international No. 1 for communication solutions in the health care sector with combined energy.

A new era for two innovative pioneers
Schrack Seconet and CCS both have a long tradition of extraordinary innovation and high-quality standards. Their respective founding fathers, Eduard Schrack and Alois Zettler, laid the foundation for today's success over 100 years ago. The joint path of the two European pioneers in the health and safety sector generates a special potential from which the research and development power will benefit enormously. "The two development sites are the cornerstones for launching future product generations and maintaining the current portfolio,"

CCS Care Communication Solutions GmbH is now part of the Schrack Seconet family. By combining our forces and concentrating our knowledge, we are expanding our market position in the health care sector.

says CEO Wolfgang Kern. Production will also continue to be carried out exclusively in Europe.

Health care: the right product for every customer
Customers now have an even larger, more diverse portfolio at their disposal. The product lines ZETTLER Medicall 800 and EZ CARE, as well as Visocall IP are successfully established on the market and in use in countless health care facilities worldwide. "Together we offer the optimal solution for every application on the market," emphasises Wolfgang Kern.

#STRONGER together
"We have now reached a size that allows us to invest even more in the development of innovative products. We will continue to be particularly close to the customer in the future," Wolfgang Kern is convinced. "The respective expertise should flow together and become a new, strong whole." To underline the new, powerful "we", CCS now appears on the market under the name Schrack Seconet Care Communication. ✱

Visocall IP in the Land of Smiles

Theerachai Sirirat-Usdorn has been implementing the Visocall IP hospital communication system in Thai hospitals for the past few years. We spoke to him about Thailand's growing demand for medical care, interest among hospitals in the innovative IP-based equipment, and the crucial importance of technical support.

fire&care — *Teo Hong Phaisan Company Limited in Bangkok, of which you are Managing Director, is Schrack Seconet's partner for Visocall IP. Can you give us a brief overview of the Thai health care market?*
Theerachai Sirirat-Usdorn — The health care market is a key sector in Thailand. Under the national health plan for 2016 to 2025, the government wants to develop our health system into the "medical hub" of the ASEAN region and further promote the existing "medical tourism", among other things. Both the public and private sectors are investing heavily in the expansion of hospitals, and there is a high demand for high-quality medical technology and equipment. Together with its strategic location as a gateway to the growing economies of Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos, this also makes Thailand an attractive market for foreign manufacturers of medical equipment and services.

fire&care — *Your company has equipped hospitals and nursing homes in Thailand with Visocall IP, and more projects are in the pipeline. Which is the biggest one so far involving Visocall IP?*
Theerachai Sirirat-Usdorn — Without a doubt, the expansion of the Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital in Si Racha. It is run by the Thai Red Cross and is one of the oldest hospitals in the country. It is also a training center for medical students from Burapha University. On the occasion of the 150th birthday of Queen Sri Savarindira, a new building was constructed here: the Memorial Medical Center with additional outpatient clinics, operating theatres, laboratories, wards and a total of 1,040 beds. It offers a high standard of medical care. In terms of quality, technology and performance, the provision of the Visocall IP system, including the modern communication terminals, nurse stations, service call buttons and patient terminals, is ideal for this prestigious project. The 26-storey building will be a hub for medical services in the eastern region in the near future. However, two of the country's most renowned hospitals are also on our customer list: By the end of 2022, we will have equipped the approximately 350 beds in a renovated and a new part of the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, which has a total of 1,536 beds, with Visocall IP. Likewise, 358 beds in one of the Police General Hospital buildings, which has nearly 700 beds. Both facilities are located in Bangkok.

fire&care — *Where has Visocall IP already been implemented and what are your experiences here?*
Theerachai Sirirat-Usdorn — The first Thai hospital to install the hospital communication system from Schrack Seconet is the Boonraksa Medical Center in the Dhammakaya Temple. It has 136 beds and provides medical care for the monks. We have also equipped the Servant Center for the Elderly of the Royal Family as well as parts of the Praram 9 Hospital and the CGH Samai Hospital. Conventional nurse call systems are still common in Thailand, but they are not state of the art. With an eye to the future, more and more people are opting for IP communication systems. This allows the integration of multiple disciplines into a single IP backbone. This saves the clients a lot of money in setting up and maintaining their IT structure.

fire&care — *Why are more and more Thai hospitals opting for Visocall IP?*
Theerachai Sirirat-Usdorn — Visocall IP meets the DIN VDE 0834 standard, a very high standard. And it has a wide range of functions. Also, the system is decentralised: If servers, the nurse station and switches fail, Visocall IP will still function independently. It's a huge boost for reliability!
As a company that has been in the health care industry for more than 40 years, we also know that our customers want good customer service in addition to high quality and multi-functionality. Schrack Seconet's excellent technical support is also a crucial factor. All users, including patients, nurses, doctors, technicians and administration, benefit from having a state-of-the-art system like this.

fire&care — *What features of Visocall IP do patients particularly appreciate?*
Theerachai Sirirat-Usdorn — Anyone who comes to a hospital or nursing home doesn't just want to be well looked after, but they also want to maintain full contact with the outside world. In addition to the call function and voice communication with staff, patients can also use Visocall IP to operate TV sets, radio, telephone, lights or blinds. Nowadays, people are concerned not just about the quality of medical treatment, but also about comfort. Patients want to feel at ease in the facilities. ✱

Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospitals in Si Racha: The new Memorial Medical Center was equipped with Visocall IP.

PHOTO: ITALTHAI ENGINEERING

> Bangkok
> **Memorial Medical Center**
> **Affiliation:** Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital
> **Operator:** Thai Red Cross Society
> **Beds:** 1,040
> **Location:** Si Racha, Chon Buri Province
> **Region:** Gulf coast in eastern Thailand
> **Gross floor area:** 160,500 m²

PHOTO: TEO HONG PHAISAN CO., LTD

Theerachai Sirirat-Usdorn
Managing Director, Teo Hong Phaisan Co., Ltd.

"The hospitals and nursing homes we supply are looking to modernise. We offer them Visocall IP because we are convinced that it meets all their requirements and Schrack Seconet offers an excellent solution for every initial situation. With its multifunctionality, this networked hospital communication system is optimal for the medical staff and also for the patients."

Ahead of its time

Boehringer Ingelheim's new biopharmaceutical production building in Meidling is one of the largest investments in Vienna's business location and at the same time a special milestone in the long-term collaboration with Schrack Seconet. The newly built multi-production facility (LSCC Large Scale Cell Culture) also places special requirements on fire protection, especially due to the clean rooms in production and laboratory areas. Standards must be strictly adhered to and there are also many critical factors here. The clear choice for fire protection was therefore aspirating smoke detectors.

Protection of special areas
Exactly 333 smoke aspirating systems are now in use at the Boehringer Ingelheim site. As a result of the major investment by the LSCC, the number of automatic detectors has also doubled to a total of 10,725. There are also 2,239 fire control systems that regulate elevators, roller door, ventilation, extinguishing systems and much more. Michael Petris, Project Manager at Schrack Seconet, explains: "It's possible, for example, to switch off the ventilation in just three rooms while it continues to run in other areas." In the new LSCC, a two-detector dependency also prevents production from being endangered by false alarms. Jürgen Piesek, Head of Plant Security at Boehringer Ingelheim, explains: "The first silent alarm goes to the company fire brigade, which has an intervention time of eight minutes. However, if a second alarm is triggered during this time in an area that is difficult to access, full evacuation is trig-

gered." Two members of staff from the company fire brigade are on standby 24/7 and are positioned in the 40,000 m² building so that they can reach any point within the intervention time.

Pioneer in fire protection
Modernising and expanding – always the order of the day at Boehringer Ingelheim, in produc-tion as well as in fire protection, the company is always a pioneer. "It's important for us to be up-to-date. Together with Schrack Seconet, we've achieved a lot in recent years. Ultimately, both sides benefit from flexible cooperation," says Christian Mayer, Technical Security at Boehringer Ingelheim. An important milestone was the operation control system, which was introduced in 2005. With visualised fire protection plans and operational control printers, this also gives the company fire brigade decisive support. "Back then we were among the first to have this kind of a control centre, it was an important step towards the future," says Mayer with conviction.

SafeREACH
A highlight at Boehringer Ingelheim is also the use of SafeREACH. With this system, alarms are distributed in plain text to all members of staff in a stored user group. "This provides specific information about where a problem has occurred and those responsible are mobilised immediately," explains Piesek. Depending on the connection, different delivery routes are used: initially via IP communication, if not available via the GSM network as a text message or call. ✱

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Boehringer Ingelheim Regional Center Vienna

Innovation in the heart of Europe *The Vienna branch is responsible for prescription drugs and veterinary drugs in more than 30 countries. In addition, Vienna is the global centre for cancer research and coordinates clinical research in the region. With the LSCC, the focus of development and production in Vienna has been given a second pillar. In addition to the existing production with the help of microorganisms, biopharmaceuticals using cell cultures are also possible.*

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THE SUPER INTELLIGENCE OF FIRE PROTECTION

The world's largest supercomputer has just gone into operation in Finland – an EU project involving several countries. The climate-conscious high performance data centre also relies on the most advanced solutions for fire protection: an intelligent concept with Integral Remote ensures seamless monitoring and the fastest possible response to incidents.

PHOTO: JUHA TORVINEN, CSC

PHOTO: SAMULI ROSENBERG

550 km through the forests of Finland in a split second: with Integral Remote from Schrack Seconet.

An IT project of gigantic dimensions: the new supercomputer LUMI (Large Unified Modern Infrastructure) in Finland can perform up to 552 quadrillion arithmetic operations per second. In doing so, it has smashed the previous record in Japan. The supercomputer was implemented as part of the European High Performance Computing Initiative in several EU countries, and over 200 million euros were invested. The high performance of the Hewlett Packard Enterprise computer is particularly suited for complex computing tasks related to deep learning and AI workloads.

Green IT project

The high-performance data centre was built in a former paper mill and relies on carbon-neutral, renewable energy. 100% of LUMI's energy consumption is covered by electricity from hydropower. LUMI is also an example of environmentally conscious use of resources. "The climatic conditions only require a low level of computer cooling. The heat generated in this way is also used as heating energy and covers 20% of the region's needs," explains Kimmo Karila. With AGIS, a partner company of Schrack Seconet, he installed fire protection for this investment project on behalf of the operating company CSC.

Data centres have special requirements in terms of fire protection. "Any fire on a server carries the risk of irretrievable data loss and the interruption of business-critical processes. This is why detecting and containing a fire as quickly as possi-

ble is crucial. Such projects require specialists, like AGIS, who have already installed preventive fire protection for several data centres and who also have special expertise in gas extinguishing systems," emphasises Patrick Eveleens, Area Sales Manager at Schrack Seconet.

Overcoming long distances in the shortest possible time

For LUMI, AGIS installed a fire safety concept that complies with the latest standards. Integral Remote, the remote access solution from Schrack Seconet, enables on-site access to the systems at any time. The AGIS branch in Helsinki is 550 km away from LUMI, but the systems are always in view via the remote access connection. "Our specialists see exactly the same control panel as a member of staff on site. This enables us to offer the same service 24/7 as a person on site," highlights Kimmo Karila. This saves lengthy, often unpredictable travel times: "In summer the drive to LUMI takes about five and a half hours and in winter you have to be prepared for everything …" Integral Remote also proves its worth in annual maintenance, the AGIS specialists come to

"Integral Remote is a crucial asset for us. Our specialists can react to system messages or incidents directly from their computer."

Kimmo Karila
*Managing Director
AGIS Fire & Security Oy*

the appointment well prepared. "We know exactly what happened during the year and have a good overall picture," says Kimmo Karila.

Controlling the extinguishing systems

The extinguishing systems are also a central element in LUMI's fire safety concept. "We have different solutions in use: In outdoor areas we work with water sprinkler systems, in the data centre itself with inert gas. All extinguishing systems are controlled via the fire alarm system," explains Kimmo Karila.

Despite the unusual operating conditions that were put in place as a result of the coronavirus, the prestigious European project LUMI is going into operation this year as planned. "The extraordinary computing power of LUMI will give European research an important impetus. The fire safety concept is an essential contribution to this, and we have also opted for the most advanced solutions: Remote access with Integral Remote ensures permanent monitoring of all systems," emphasises Jukka-Pekka Partanen, Head of Datacentres, CSC. ✽

THE DIGITAL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Integral EvoxX and digital tools: benefits for all stages of life

Planning

- Efficient and secure planning
- Quick cost estimation
- Continuous digital support
- Access to collective knowledge

Installation

- Traceability and time savings thanks to digital installation support
- Assembly and simultaneous assignment of the periphery
- Daily updated, easily accessible information

Operation

FOR THE OPERATOR

- Remote display, operation and status queries via mobile devices
- Detailed alarm information at any time, any place
- Intervention function via mobile devices
- Efficient operation, quick response and shorter walking distances

FOR INSTALLERS

- All facility data in one place – better information
- Better preparation for technician deployment for disruptions

4. Maintenance

- Optimised maintenance process
- facility status at a glance, permanent facility analysis
- Proactive measures and early response
- Support for service planning and implementation
- Efficient testing of detectors and sirens

5. Expansion and innovation

- Lifelong benefits: continuous fire protection with the highest rating
- Low adaptation and installation effort, short implementation time
- Simple, successive modernisation (replacing the old control panel while keeping the periphery the same or vice versa)

ILLUSTRATIONS: SUPAN, FREEPIK, EUCALYP, ICONGEEK06, SRIP, / FLATICON.COM

ILLUSTRATIONS: AF-STUDIO / ISTOCK

INTEGRAL EVOXX

Fit for Future

With Integral EvoxX, Schrack Seconet is launching a fire alarm system of a completely new generation onto the market. All current trends in security technology were taken into account: digitalisation and Industry 4.0, cyber security and data protection, digital twin and predictive maintenance as well as the wireless interaction with the control panel.

Ready for the digital era
Integral EvoxX is the advanced solution for a cloud-based future with the highest level of security and best connectivity. The new fire alarm system brings significant progress on all levels – through smart sensor technology, further optimised plant availability, smart apps in the cloud and high-performing hardware. With five times the processor power and 32 times more memory than the previous generation, processing power is increased enormously. Highest protection mechanisms were an integral part of the development process, customers can rely on best security standards. According to the motto "making what's safe even safer", the new redundancy concept also brings further optimisation: two identical systems are constantly working in hot stand-by mode, all system structures and components are now duplicated.

Integral EvoxX will successively add new components and features that make forward-focused trends a reality. First, the new fire alarm control panel will be launched. A Bluetooth interface is now included as standard. Users can interact directly with the fire alarm control panel via a tablet or another mobile device. Installers and end users expect applications for the entire life cycle of a fire alarm system, which will expand the previous options further. Different target groups will receive pinpoint support in their activities. In this way, Integral EvoxX stands for a future-focused system of the digital era with the best investment security. ✱

WE PUT THREE QUESTIONS TO MARKUS AUBRUNNER

STATE-OF-THE-ART

fire&care — *What advantages does the new Integral EvoxX fire alarm system offer customers?*
With its intelligent connection to a highly secure cloud platform, Integral EvoxX is the most advanced fire alarm system on the market. Our state-of-the-art technology also brings significant progress when it comes to the total costs of ownership. Thanks to our proven forward and backward compatibility, customers can switch to the new system step-by-step and so successively benefit from the new advantages in terms of connectivity.

fire&care — *How long did work on the new fire alarm system take and where was Integral EvoxX developed?*
The first thoughts about Integral EvoxX go back twelve years. We've rethought everything on all levels, from the control centre to the fieldbus, and have worked intensively on development for the last five years. The new control centre was completely developed by our team here in Vienna, right down to complete system testing.

fire&care — *Does the term EvoxX have a special meaning?*
Yes, EvoxX is a phonetic contraction of the words evolution, velocity and maximum. So the word encompasses our forward and backward compatible development, the increased speed and the maximum exploitation of all technological possibilities.

Markus Aubrunner
Head of Product Management for Fire Alarm Systems Schrack Seconet

PHOTO: FIZKES / ADOBE STOCK

Sales seminars go online

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Schrack Seconet's established sales seminars could not take place in-house last year. "In this situation, our employees had the courage to explore new territory and spontaneously developed online formats. With a lot of commitment, we overcame the initial technical hurdles and were overwhelmed by the response. The virtual sales seminars and webinars were extremely well received," says Head of International Operations Herbert Hübl.

A flying start
More than 300 participants from more than 30 countries finally took part in the online seminars in autumn 2020. "Of course, we look forward to welcoming our customers in person again, but our online courses are a good alternative in the current

situation and they naturally also have advantages. There are no lengthy trips and travel costs, and an update on our new products can be integrated more flexibly into the appointment calendar," says Herbert Hübl.

Like many others, Shani Haneef, Sales Director of a partner company in the United Arab Emirates, was enthusiastic: "Thank you very much for this wonderful online meeting. The presentation gave in-depth insights into the products and solutions and how we can use them to benefit our customers. We found it really impressive – even in the demanding time of Covid-19, Schrack Seconet stands up with professional product marketing."

Wide range of online offers
After the encouraging reception in autumn 2020, the range of offers was continued and expanded in

spring 2021. For the product launch of Integral EvoxX, there were several online presentations with the features of the new generation of the fire alarm system. In the health care sector, special application possibilities and extended functions of Visocall IP with Alarm Messaging were demonstrated online. The Integral Remote webinar, which combined the theoretical advantages of remote access with a practical demonstration by experts, was also very popular. A video with a demonstration of the demo room was also created for the online presentations. Herbert Hübl comments: "This allows customers to get a hands-on impression, almost as if they were taking a tour themselves." At the moment, customised webinars are being prepared for planners, to provide expertise in designing fire alarm systems and hospital communication systems.

Go online – this has been the premise since last year, and not just for the international sales team: Virtual training courses were also introduced by the Training Center and many Schrack Seconet country organisations have also created online services for their customers in local languages. ✱

Herbert Hübl is happy: "The Schrack Seconet international sales team now also offers online updates on new products. The extremely successful launch last autumn has already been followed up by more online seminars and webinars."

Further information on the planned virtual sales seminars and other activities can be requested via e-mail either from your local Schrack Seconet office or in Vienna: *a.wolfsbauer@schrack-seconet.com.*

PHOTO: FACHHOCHSCHULE BURGENLAND GMBH

Digital added value

As part of an initiative by the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Pinkafeld University of Applied Sciences, Schrack Seconet focused on advanced approaches to technical facility management. The aim of techFM4.0 was to transfer knowledge from research to business. A digital innovation workshop led by AIT as well as other activities provided insightful knowledge along the building value chain.

There was also a focus on specific applications. Fire alarm systems are

present in buildings in many places where there is otherwise no sensor technology. They record temperature values that could also be used for climate control in a building. "To use the temperature data, we carried out a test setup with a fire alarm system in the course of techFM4.0, and gained important insights for a follow-up in terms of the smart buildings of the future," emphasises René Türk, Head of Product Management for Information Systems. ✱

SOLAR POWER IN DUBAI

The world's largest single-site concentrated solar power plant is currently under construction in the United Arab Emirates desert. Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park is located 50 kilometres south of Dubai in the desert and combines photovoltaic modules with a solar thermal power plant (CSP – Concentrated Solar Power) using a hybrid concept. Here, parabolic mirrors concentrate the sun's heat onto a 260-metre-high central tower.

Noor Energy 1 is a 950 MW hybrid project (700MW CSP & 250MW PV) using a state-of-the-art combination of a central tower and parabolic trough concentrated solar power (CSP) technologies to collect energy from the sun.

The project will increase Dubai share of environmentally friendly energy to 25% by 2030 and reduce CO_2 emissions by 1.6 million tonnes. The total capacity of operational projects at the solar park, which uses photovoltaic solar panels is 1,013MW. By 2030 the entire project capacity will reach 5,000 MW.

Complex fire alarm systems
Schrack Seconet is supplying the Integral fire alarm systems for this pioneering project. In the course of an Integral WAN, 55 remote locations will be networked with each other. Operators in the main tower will be able to remotely and centrally supervise, control and monitor the fire alarm situation in every location from one command centre. ✱
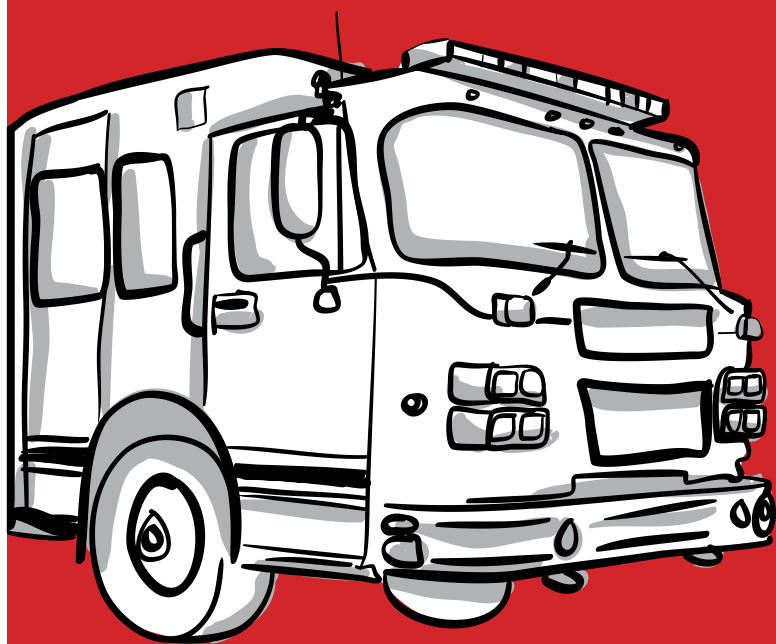

PHOTO: ALEXSL / ISTOCK

Mohamed Essam, Director of Business Development El Sewedy Systems, during his presentation at Intelligent Cities.

FIRE PROTECTION FOR SMART CITIES

Intelligent Cities – this was the motto of a trade fair and accompanying conference in Cairo, the capital of Egypt. The event showed perspectives for sustainable and intelligent cities of the future and took place at the Royal Maxim Palace Kempinski. Schrack Seconet had a stand there with its partner El Sewedy Systems represented by Mohamed Essam who introduced the pioneering data centre project at Faysal Bank. The interest in Schrack Seconet's presentation was high: the stand was visited by Hany Mahmoud, the former Egyptian Minister of Information and Communications, among others. This year, Schrack Seconet will participate again at the fair. ✱

Where it burns especially

Emergency vehicles can have a value of 500,000 euro, while at the same time there is a lot of technology that poses a high fire risk.

No volunteer fire brigade wants to experience this fire event: an emergency in their own building. The risk of this happening is high, though, because the locations are unoccupied, and a lot of electrical equipment is in continuous use at the same time. A fire alarm system provides an important safeguard here, which is why Schrack Seconet supports volunteer fire brigades with its own complete package.

Many of the electrical devices used by fire brigades are permanently connected to the power grid so that the batteries are charged in the event of an emergency. "Quite a few chargers are plugged in 24/7. All vehicles and equipment are always supplied with electricity so that they're ready for action in an emergency," clarifies Günter Reichhardt, commander of the Axberg volunteer fire brigade in Upper Austria. This means that there's a high risk of a short circuit or overheating. Tests by Schrack Seconet with thermal imaging cameras have shown, for example, that a temperature of 70 °C can occur in battery charging boxes. This can happen even if high-quality equipment is used, because every point of energy is a source of danger. Fire brigades have plenty of these: "There are often ten or even more devices in an emergency vehicle that are permanently charged.

Portable searchlights, radios, measuring devices, etc.," says Wolfgang Niederauer, commander of the Schwadorf volunteer fire brigade near Vienna.

Small cause, big damage
On top of this, often a short circuit goes unnoticed for a while, because a fire brigade building is only manned when there's an alarm. However, even a small event of fire can cause significant damage – the toxic smoke often requires expensive renovation. Only a few years ago, there was a fire in the vehicle hall of the Bregenz fire brigade. Although it was detected quickly and extinguished within a few minutes, several vehicles were damaged. An even more serious fire occurred in a community on Lake Neusiedl: the fire station building was damaged and the fire engine was even completely destroyed.

Vehicles as the core
An incident like this can make it difficult for fire protection to run smoothly for a long period, and other fire brigades might have to take over the emergency services for a community. Replacing an emergency vehicle with a call for tender usually takes a year or even longer, even with accelerated procurement, and means high costs – a fully equipped emergency vehicle can be worth 500,000 euro. So, preventive fire protection is a reasonable investment, especially f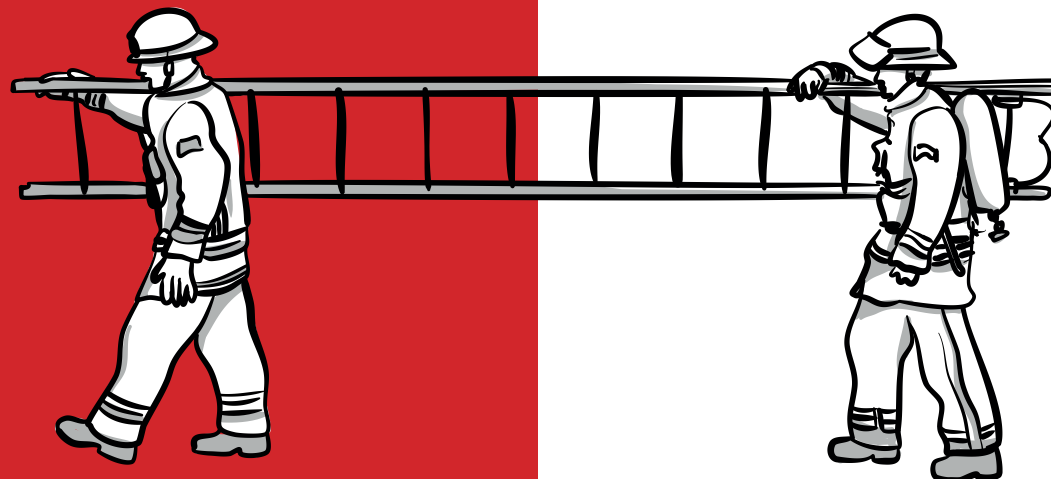or the sensitive areas around the vehicle hall. "The emergency vehicles are the core of a fire brigade, and it feels really good when this area is monitored. That's

why we decided to install a fire alarm system in the vehicle hall and the workshops in our new building," says Wolfgang Niederauer from the Schwadorf volunteer fire brigade.

Schrack Seconet has developed a special package for volunteer fire brigades that offers reliable protection. "Sometimes certain devices are left plugged in for days until they're used again. We wanted to address this rather high fire risk, especially as a fire brigade. Our fire alarm system from Schrack Seconet is an essential safety factor in our fire station, and it protects us from the worst in the event of an emergency," says Günter Reichhardt from the Axberg volunteer fire brigade.

Special: Integral IP for volunteer fire brigades
In Upper and Lower Austria as well as in Burgenland alone, about 75 volunteer fire brigades have taken advantage of Schrack Seconet's special offer in recent years, which, in addition to preventive fire protection, also includes solutions for access and alarm systems. The offer also won over the Marchtrenk volunteer fire brigade, which installed a fire alarm system while renovating their building.

Commander Thomas Fraungruber emphasises: "A fire alarm system is also an essential component for the safety of a fire station building. It doesn't just protect the valuable equipment and emergency vehicles, but can also be used for efficient training for the emergency forces." This benefit is also emphasised by Wolfgang Niederauer from Schwadorf: "It's really very practical to be able to do the regular training right here on site." ✱

"A fire alarm system is also an essential component for the safety of a fire station building. It doesn't just protect the valuable equipment and emergency vehicles, but can also be used for efficient training for the emergency forces."

Thomas Fraungruber,
Commander of the Marchtrenk volunteer fire brigade

"The emergency vehicles are the core of a fire brigade, and it feels really good when this area is monitored. That's why we decided to install a fire alarm system in the vehicle hall and the workshops in our new building."

Wolfgang Niederauer,
Commander of the Schwadorf volunteer fire brigade

„Our fire alarm system from Schrack Seconet is an essential safety factor in our fire station, and it protects us from the worst in the event of an emergency."

Günter Reichhardt,
Commander of the Axberg volunteer fire brigade

Why we are spared nothing in life?

Even the most absurd joke often contains a grain of wisdom. When Grandpa was given a tablet as a gift, he'd never seen such a miraculous thing before. As he watched a dance video playing on YouTube, shaking his head, he said, "In the future, you'll even be able to get out of having to dance yourself!"

Here's a few things we got out of doing in 2020, thanks to the coronavirus! Commuting to work. Inefficient meetings. Petrol, because where could you have gone? The effort of the gym. Hairdressers and cosmetics, unnecessaryily behind the mask anyway. Flying to conventions and business meetings. The burden of semi-fun dinner invitations that you would still have felt obliged to return in 2019. Tedious visits to relatives, children's birthday parties and conversations with neighbours. What we've avoided most, thanks to the lockdowns, is spending our free time shopping. Shouldn't we be rich by now?

In music, a fermata is a pause, a period of indeterminate duration in which either a silence or a sound is extended in time. In 2020, life paused like a fermata – some things were at a standstill, some things went on uniformly, what was missing was the music. And the dancing – in all its aimless and futile glory.

How will life go on after the pandemic? The emblematic experience of a break sparked hopes that we could abandon unpleasant aspects of our former lives and live in a better world afterwards. We all had time to imagine utopias, but everyone developed a completely different idea of the "new normal". Those who'd already embraced digitalisation in all areas of life felt validated by the lockdown. In fact, the avoidance of physical contact generated a "digitalisation boost". Even people who would never have used video calling were suddenly grateful that it existed. The pandemic forced everyone to try out the new technologies. A lot of things demonstrated their worth, and some of them will stick. There was also some exaggeration by technology enthusiasts who yearned for a fully digitalised life at home as a general model for the future. No more school, no more university, no more events, no more office, no more travel, everything can be dispensed with because everything can be digitalised, making life much more efficient.

The pandemic was also seen by people with aspirations in the opposite direction as a lesson in how to improve the world. Glory be to the coronavirus as consumers experienced how quiet and pleasant life can be if we just stop consuming. If we work less, do without holidays and avoid things that consume energy and raw materials. The competition-based society of the "Me Inc." had found a new neighbourly warmth, solidarity and community in the lockdown. Some even hoped that the coronavirus would overcome capitalism, because it had become clear that only the state could "save" us.

A lot of people died. They could remind us that there should be a life before death, which should be as vibrant, free, creative, joyful and adventurous as possible. A life that's not utilitarian, fearful and confined. A life that's worth living. You can't do without this kind of life, and you don't gain anything by trying to do without as much as possible.

One thing we have learned with certainty from the time of uncertainty: that catastrophes don't just exist in the cinema. How little we can foresee. And how fragile our future is. It's impossible to protect ourselves from unknown dangers. All the more reason for us to develop technologies that provide for our safety where possible.

Wolfgang Pauser is an essayist, columnist and brand consultant. Born in 1959, he studied philosophy in Vienna, art history and law (Dr. jur.). He began to publish as an art critic for the Austrian daily newspaper "Der Standard", in the 1990s he wrote essays for "DIE ZEIT", the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" and the "Süddeutsche" on topics of everyday and consumer culture, for which he was awarded the literature prize for essay writing by the "Stiftung Niedersachsen".

Significance OR security or perhaps significance AND security?

Recently, there have been increasing reports of global companies falling victim to hacker attacks and their business not just being affected, but even paralysed for hours, days and sometimes even weeks. The security factor is obviously becoming more important, and the focus is all on making the digital processes, which are essential to everything today, as robust and resilient as possible. The individual often seems like a small cog in the wheel of the increasingly dense digital network – tasked solely with keeping this network intact and, if necessary, mending it when it tears. The slogan is: If the system is secure, WE are secure.

However, the more marginalised the creative power of the individual, the more seemingly replaceable the individual, the greater the question of individual significance becomes. This has always been the original idea of science fiction films and conjurers of dystopian future fantasies: the human being is a cog in the wheel that either functions, making them secure, or they want to find themselves and get spat out and left to fend for themselves in an uncertain world.

You're significant simply because you're human

This is exactly where the big BUT comes in: At the point where a human being realises that being human, in contrast to all other species, is directly linked to significance. A human being without significance might exist, but they're not really living.

So the big question is: significance OR security? Life OR pure existence?

And we love these stories because they represent current truth in exaggerated form and we can relate to our own tragedy – as well as the hope attached to the hero inside ourselves. In these stories that fascinate us so much, we don't just find significance in our actions. No, we also find a new sense of security: in ourselves.

Now you might say: These are stories, and we recognise certain echoes of reality – especially now that we're getting more digitised and more dependent on AI. But our own life stories are much more mundane and don't lend themselves to heroism. That may be true, but like all stories told over and over again in new ways, there's a clear, true message: like finding significance itself, you can only find real security within yourself.

The source of security

In the stories, those heroes who cross the finish line victorious are those who had the courage to ask for their own significance in life and to seek the assurance for it in themselves – the assurance that springs from their own talents and gifts.
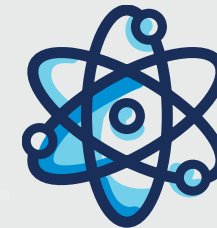
And so we too, who live in an increasingly insecure world and don't just want to exist, could ask ourselves every day: What talents and gifts do I have that I can use here to find significance in myself? What can I rely on blindly? When these questions are answered, we realise where the roots of our own security also lie: namely, exactly where we encounter what lies at the core of what makes us who we are.

The amazing thing is that through this security, anchored in us, we can make an even greater, more meaningful contribution, even in the digitalised world. Because we can only help to shape systems if we're not dependent on them. So, by consciously turning our gaze inwards, we ultimately create greater success on the outside. ✱

Mag. Martina Gleissenebner-Teskey is an internationally active trainer, author and media worker and has been working on the topic of charisma and personal effectiveness for more than 25 years. Most recently, she developed the science-based "5-Finger Model of Charismatic Leadership", with a particular focus on creating significance through leadership.

SO INNOVATIVE in thinking
Our ambition are innovative solutions that set standards. Our fast-moving world sets the pace – we are well ahead with our developments.

SO RELIABLE in our values
We are a reliable partner that you can depend on – we understand our customers and feel connected to them.

SO SURE in what we do
With our expertise and experience, we implement secure solutions that bring obvious benefits to people.

SO COMPETENT in implementation
Our employees make a decisive contribution to the success of projects with their expertise and commitment. We are convinced: Only the best service really turns the best product into the best solution.

We protect lives. We secure values.

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