CUSTOMER MAGAZINE OF SCHRACK SECONET

02

DEZEMBER 2022



# fire&care

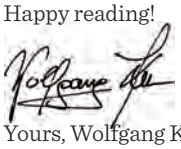
# Editorial

**Dear customers and business partners,** Over the past two years, we have faced extraordinary challenges in the wake of the pandemic. Now we face renewed challenges. It is crucial to be pointed in the right direction in such a volatile and complex situation. Daily business is more demanding than ever, and at the same time it is all the more important to focus on the long term.

At Schrack Seconet, we face this dilemma by paying increased attention to strategically relevant processes that have been separated from operational management. Meta topics such as digitalisation and supply chains are central tasks that we are focusing on at a superordinate level. What course do we need to set in our organisation to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow? What business models will allow us to continue offering our customers services that set standards in the industry? Questions like these guide our new Strategy Management Board because we are convinced: Successful companies in particular are now called upon to take the right steps to continue on their upward trajectory – and this is precisely our goal.

**Digital applications**
This issue of our customer magazine will focus on the previously-mentioned digitalisation. A comprehensive article presents our applications for fire alarm systems – in which we go into detail about the use of two of our solutions at the electronics group TE Connectivity. The beginning of the issue also takes us to Central Asia. Our report casts some light on a dynamic region where we have been able to realise exciting projects. Furthermore, in this fire&care we present our new app Visocall Mobile and show how it can increase the quality of care. We also show how radiometric dual cameras provide reliable fire protection under special conditions.

Happy reading!



Yours, Wolfgang Kern

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PHOTO: TE CONNECTIVITY

# Content



PHOTO: PETER GRABNER

# Heard but not seen

**Public address – information in everyday use**

You'll certainly be familiar with announcements at railway stations announcing the departure of trains. Sound systems like that are also used in shops, where subtle background music is often intended to create the right shopping mood. "The range of applications for public address systems (PA) is extremely diverse today; they transmit information in real time, play music or other canned audio," explains Peter Bock, Product Management Fire Alarm Systems Schrack Seconet.

**Voice alarm – information during an emergency**

Acoustic voice alarms (VA) are useful whenever increased security technology requirements apply. Their primary purpose is to transmit information in a perfectly comprehensible manner in an emergency because spoken instructions are extremely important in these cases: This helps avoid panic or wrong reactions, helps people flee in a calmer and more orderly manner and increases the speed of evacuations. For this reason, voice alarm systems are mostly used in buildings with a lot of people who are not familiar with the escape routes. These include shopping centres, hospitals (with special evacuation scenarios), industrial buildings, universities, sports facilities, hotels, administrative buildings, and railway stations.

"All tasks related to public address and voice alarm can be covered intelligently, future-oriented and user-friendly with APS Aprosys."

Peter Bock,
*Product management*
*Fire alarm systems*
*Schrack Seconet*

**Swiss precision for maximum security**

An integrated system can take care of both the public address system and the standard-compliant voice alarm in all these types of buildings. "In APS Aprosys from our Swiss sister company g+m , we have just such a solution. It distributes spoken information and plays background music in the normal application. In combination with a hazard monitoring system such as our fire alarm control panel, it also serves to alert and evacuate personnel more quickly," says Peter Bock. It complies with the provided standards and country-specific regulations.

**APS Aprosys with new control unit**

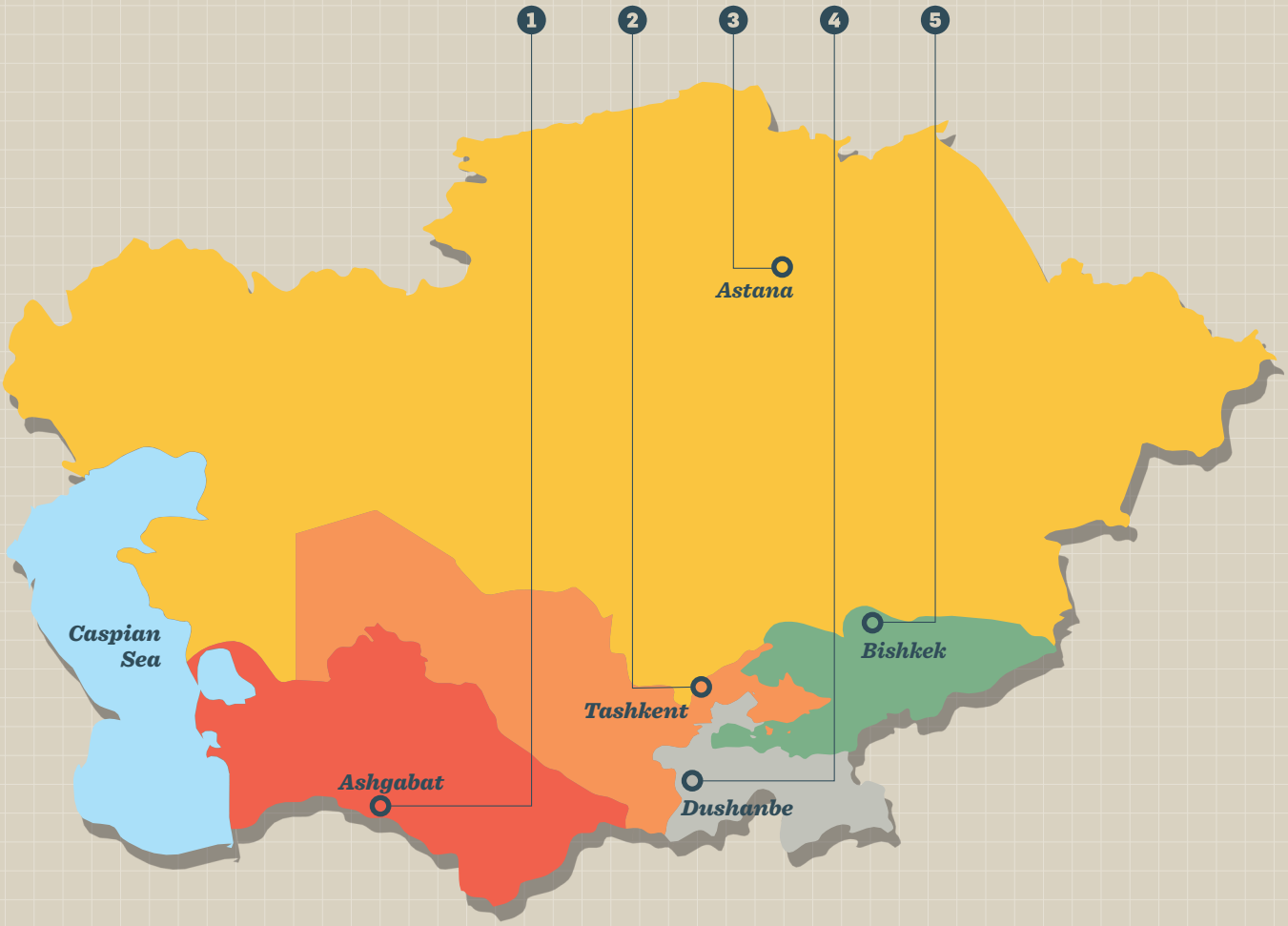
The new APS-9000 control unit now integrates various functions in just one module, making it much easier to plan, assemble and configure different projects. At the same time, the familiar modular system architecture, the cost-efficient LAN networking, the unparalleled system and function flexibility as well as the optimal integration with other control systems are all maintained. "This means that all tasks relating to public address and voice alarm can be intelligent, future-oriented and user-friendly", clarifies Peter Bock.

**What should be considered in acoustic planning?**

One essential factor for electroacoustic public address systems is the structural conditions of the site – a railway platform has different requirements than a shopping centre or an industrial building. The expertise of the project team is crucial for planning suitable loudspeakers in the right positions as well as the optimal amount and for determining the power requirements and the size of the amplifiers. The noise level, i.e. the volume of the usual ambient noise, and other environmental acoustic parameters such as reverberation due to sound reflection or sound absorption must also be taken into account. ✱

PHOTOS: IG PHOTOGRAPHY, LORENZO PATOIA / ISTOCK

# Fascinating Central Asia




| Country | Capital | Population | Area |
|---|---|---|---|
| ❶ Turkmenistan | Ashgabat | 6.0 million | 488,100 km² |
| ❷ Uzbekistan | Tashkent | 35.4 million | 448,978 km² |
| ❸ Kazakhstan | Astana | 18.9 million | 2,724,900 km² |
| ❹ Tajikistan | Dushanbe | 9.5 million | 143,100 km² |
| ❺ Kyrgyzstan | Bishkek | 6.5 million | 199,951 km² |

ILLUTRATION: PYTYCZECH / ISTOCK

Central Asia has long been a crossroads between the cultures of the Mediterranean to the west and Iran, India and China to the east. Even in ancient times, the Silk Road was not just an important trade route, but it also spread ideas, cultures and religions in both directions. Even today, Central Asia forms an important bridge between Europe and Asia. The five countries of the region, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, share the same name ending "stan", which comes from Persian and means "country".

**[ 1 ] Uzbekistan**
View of the Bibi Khanum Mosque in Samarkand.

**[ 2+3 ]** Larissa Kirsch: "This country never fails to fascinate me with its traditional silk carpets, varied spices, the world's best melons and with plov cooked in enormous cast-iron pots."

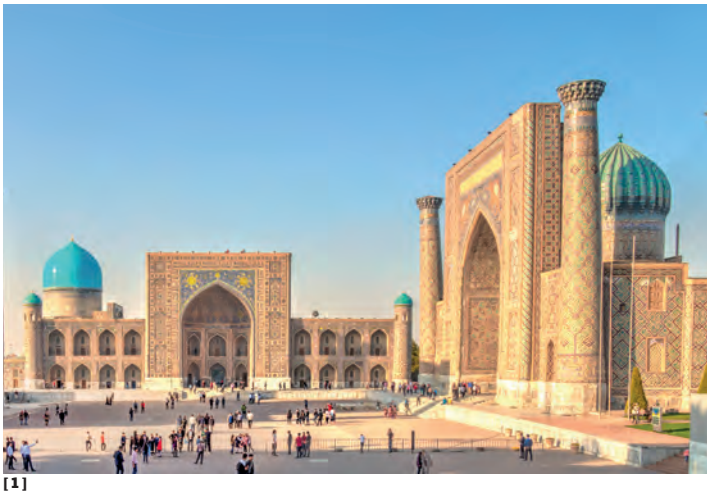


PHOTO: MEHDI33300/ADOBESTOCK

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PHOTOS: LARISSA KIRSCH

[ 3 ]

Was What makes Central Asia special and how is Schrack Seconet active there? Area Sales Manager Larissa Kirsch shares some personal insights. She was born in the capital of Kyrgyzstan to Russian parents. When she was a baby, the family first lived in Turkmenistan, and Larissa Kirsch attended her first school class in a small town in Kazakhstan. As an adult, she was then invited to work for an important project in Uzbekistan. Her work as Area Manager for Schrack Seconet has now regularly taken her to Central Asia for 17 years: "I'm always amazed at the rapid development of these countries and I'm very happy with what I can do. After all, our solutions secure property as well as people's lives and health."

"I'm always amazed at the rapid development of these countries and I'm extremely happy with what we can do."

Larissa Kirsch
*Area Sales Manager at Schrack Seconet*

**Uzbekistan**

Our journey through Central Asia begins in Uzbekistan. This plunges us directly into a completely different world: The cities of Khiva, Samarkand and Bukhara were important centres along the Silk Road, on which, among other things, silk was transported to the west and wool, gold and silver to the east. Today, Tashkent is the capital of Uzbekistan. Fire alarm systems from Schrack Seconet are installed at the international airport there, as well as in the Palace of International Forums, a white marble conference centre. Finally, Samarkand is home to Schrack Seconet's largest project in Uzbekistan, the Samarkand Tourist Complex. It includes a congress hall, eight hotels with up to 5 stars, restaurants, cafés, and parks.

**Kyrgyzstan**

The journey continues to Kyrgyzstan, where 90 percent of the country's surface is over 1500 metres above sea level. Around a third of the country is covered by glaciers and snowfields, which account for the abundance of water. Kyrgyzstan is also one of the least forested countries in Asia. Hot summers are often spent at Lake Issyk-Kul, the second largest salt lake in the world. In the snowy and sunny winters, countless people visit the ski resorts, which are a 30-minute drive from the capital, Bishkek, and whose mountains remain brilliant white all year round. With a population of 1.5 million people, Bishkek is the largest city in the country. An endless stream of cars drives along the freshly tarred streets, while cafés, bazaars and shops beckon you to linger in the centre. Schrack Seconet has implemented fire protection for several exciting projects in Kyrgyzstan, such as business and shopping centres, a hotel, a factory and much more.

**Turkmenistan**

Turkmenistan is the third stop on our journey. The country has largely sealed itself off from the outside world. Important utilities such as light, gas, water and phone lines are free for citizens. Turkmenistan is rich in natural gas deposits. In 1971, a large gas-emitting hole opened up not far from the capital Ashgabat. The emitted gas was set on fire at the time, and it continues to burn to this day with flames up to 15 metres

INTERVIEW WHITH LARISSA KIRSCH

## Balance between business and communication skills

Larissa Kirsch has known Central Asia since childhood. In the interview, she talks about the particularities of the business culture there.

**fire&care — *What's different about project planning and implementation in Central Asia than in Europe?***
**Larissa Kirsch —** As in other regions, our projects in Central Asia are often planned several years in advance, but often things need to move really fast, and a solution must be ready yesterday ... I can remember one project where up to 28 planes landed on the site every day to deliver building materials. With such tight deadlines, there is a huge responsibility for completing projects on time. So, we too had to mobilise all our resources to finish the fire protection – finally we did it in time.

**fire&care — *What's the business etiquette in Central Asia?***
**Larissa Kirsch —** It's important to maintain friendly relations. You won't be successful if you only think about business. The right balance between business and communication skills is the key to success – it's often a fine line. Another issue is clothing: Business casual or even casual are not considered appropriate at a high-level meeting in Central Asia, for example. Formal dress is important – a blouse and nice shoes are called for. This shows respect for the people you are meeting.

**fire&care — *What are the particular challenges of market development in Central Asia?***
**Larissa Kirsch —** The climatic differences are difficult at first – the winters are really cold and the summers are scorching. Moreover, the distances and time differences are huge. From a logistical point of view, the foreign trade missions of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber were really important for our market development. They allowed us to save a lot of time. We were able to visit lots of cities and maximize our contacts. Because of that, I can only recommend the trade missions for entering the market in Central Asia.

**fire&care — *How was the market set up in concrete terms?***
**Larissa Kirsch —** In the beginning, we actively researched projects ourselves and brought them to the attention of our partners. We've worked hand in hand to develop the market – the highly qualified, local companies on the ground are crucial. Without them, the dozens of projects that we've successfully realised in the meantime wouldn't have been possible.

**[ 4 ]**

PHOTOS: OZBALCI, JUNE BAE DO / ISTOCK

**[ 5 ]**

**[ 4 ] Kasachstan**: Charyn Canyon and the Valley of Castles.

**[ 5 ]** In the capital Astana (formerly known as Nur-Sultan) stands Baiterek Tower which symbolises a mythological tree of life. Astana is one of the world's coldest capitals with an average temperature of -15°C in winter.

high. "The capital is a white wonder with wide streets lined with flowers and trees, with fountains and parks," Larissa Kirsch tells us. Akhal-Teke horses are the pride and national heritage of Turkmenistan – they are the most graceful horses in the world. Schrack Seconet implemented several fire protection projects in Ashgabat: the Military Academy, the Institute of Geography, the Ministry of Construction and many others.

### Tajikistan

Tajikistan is the fourth country we cast our eye at. In the south of the country, the oldest evidence of human ancestors settling in the region has been discovered, dating back one million years. More than two thirds of the area are covered with high mountains. Tajikistan has almost no

fossil fuels but is the country with the most water in Central Asia. The potential of hydropower is now being exploited with the world's largest dam project on the Vakhsh River. The first section went into operation in 2018. The capital is Dushanbe. Schrack Seconet implemented the Visocall IP communication system in the Danghara Hospital there.

**Kazakhstan**

Finally, we reach the largest country in the region: Kazakhstan. It's also the world's largest landlocked country and the ninth largest country in the world. Kazakhstan is predominantly steppe and possesses vast oil resources. One very special project in Kazakhstan is the nationwide networked fire alarm system for the country's pipeline network. It was set up for the state-owned operator KazTransOil, which runs around 5,400 kilometres of oil pipelines. Larissa Kirsch remembers: "When we started building in the region, I often brought brochures with me when I visited companies. One of these brochures led an engineer to contact me after a few years – he had seen it by chance and had become aware of our solutions." So, in the end, this large pipeline project can be traced back to this one brochure. ✱

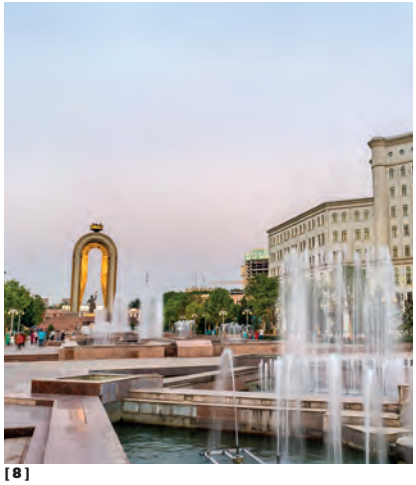
[ 6 ]

**[ 6 ] Kirgisistan** Woman in traditional Kyrgyz national dress.

**[ 7 ]** Larissa Kirsch: "Bishkek today is a mixture of Soviet-era buildings and modern architecture. The unique system of rivers and canals probably makes Bishkek one of the greenest capitals in the world."

[ 7 ]

PHOTOS: MAYNAGASHEV, FRANKIX / ISTOCK



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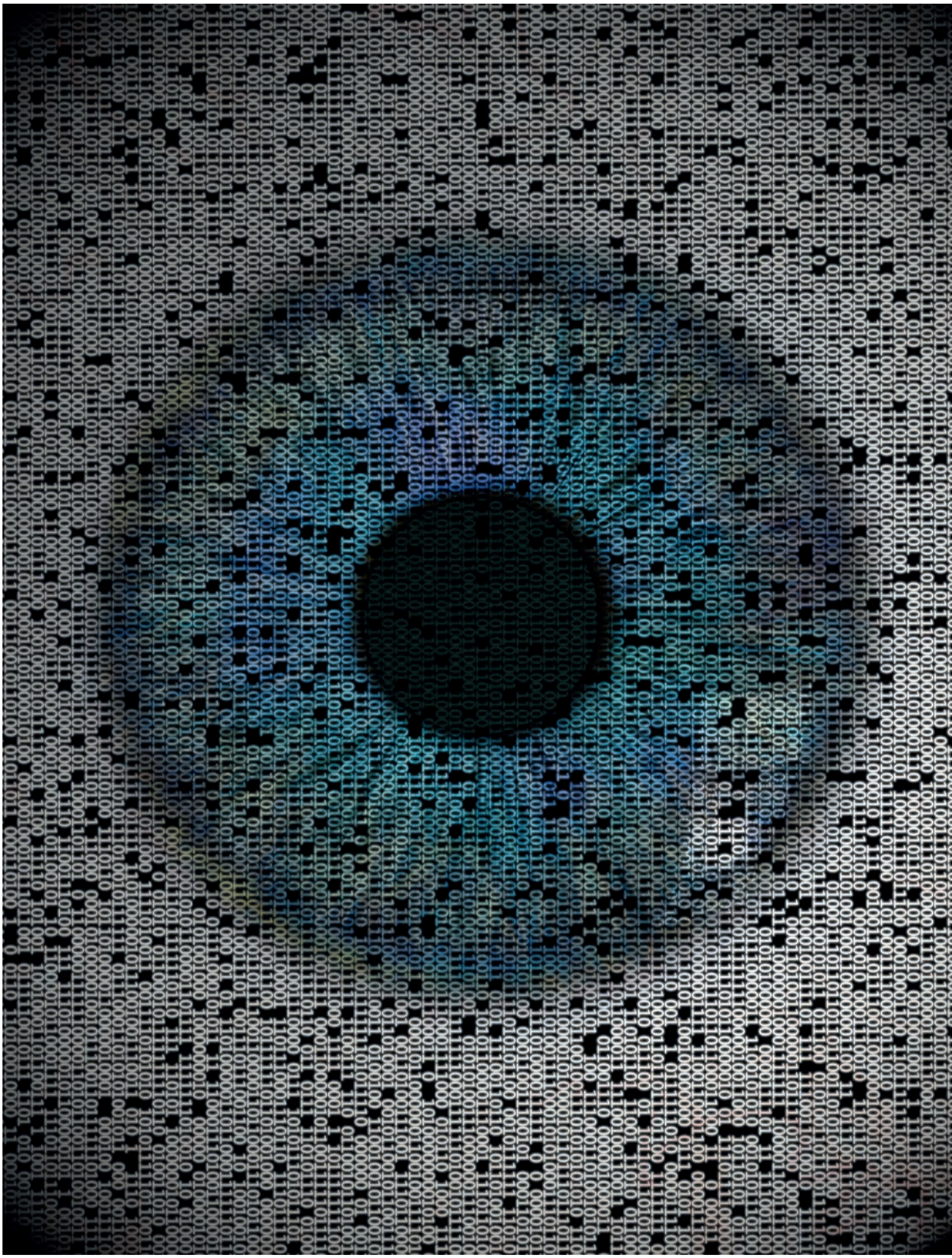
**[ 8 ] Tadschikistan** The National Library in the capital Dushanbe.

**[ 9 ]** Mehrgon Market in Dushanbe.

[ 10 ]

PHOTOS: LEONID ANDRONOV, EMILY M WILSON, AJLBER / ISTOCK

**[ 10 ] Turkmenistan** Sculptures of national writers in the capital Ashgabat with the National Library in the background. The country proclaimed perpetual neutrality and has largely isolated itself from the outside world.



Thanks to numerous participants and a wealth of interfaces, digitalisation in preventive fire protection brings a ton of advantages. Schrack Seconet has developed a comprehensive portfolio for this purpose: The digital applications support all tasks related to the installation, operation and further development of fire alarm systems. Smart technology, maximum flexibility and services in accordance with the highest standards ensure considerable improvements in quality and efficiency. This gives customers such as the electronics group TE Connectivity perfectly coordinated overall solutions for next-generation fire protection.

# Safe. Efficient. Convenient.

**SMART SECURITY:** APPS FOR THE ENTIRE LIFECYCLE

| Application | Installation | Commission | Maintenance | Extension |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Integral Desktop | ○ | ● | ○ | ○ |
| Integral Browser | ○ | ● | ○ | ○ |
| Integral Scan | ● | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Integral Mail | ○ | ● | ○ | ○ |
| Integral Mobile | ● | ● | ● | ○ |
| Integral Message | ○ | ● | ○ | ○ |
| Connect | ○ | ● | ● | ○ |
| Service Plattform | ● | ● | ● | ● |

PHOTO: PETER HOWELL / ISTOCK

TE Connectivity Waidhofen has recently become the competence centre for relay development within the company. This is why relays are not just produced on site, but also developed and tested there. During the course of this extension step, the factory was expanded by 2,300m², which gave the existing testing laboratory and the existing automation department urgently needed space. The latter versions, builds and commissions the specially developed manufacturing systems. These systems aren't just in use at the Waidhofen site. They're also manufactured for other TE Connectivity sites. Whereas previously only one product could be manufactured on a single system, the use of robotics and software engineering now makes it possible to manufacture several models. This increases flexibility and thus also the usefulness of long-term investments.

**Extension provided impetus for modernisation**

The extension project made it necessary to modernise the fire alarm system: "The existing systems had reached their capacity limits and fell behind the current possibilities in terms of ring technology, integration into the intranet, etc.", clarifies Stefan Mayer, Environment, Health & Safety Coordinator Industrial, TE Connectivity Waidhofen an der Thaya. In addition to updating the fire alarm control panel to the latest generation, remote access options were also evaluated.

TE Connectivity decided to combine two digital applications: Integral Desktop is installed on the PC workstations of the two fire protection officers, while the Integral Mobile app is installed on the smartphones of all the intervention team members. There are ten other staff members in addition to the two fire protection officers to make sure that every shift can be covered. "All of them are active firefighters who have completed at least basic training and are well-versed in important topics. Our company also supports the fire department – 70 of our 500 staff members are active in the fire brigade," says Stefan Mayer.

**Inform with Integral Mobile, operate with Integral Desktop**

For Mayer, the combination of the two applications is an optimal solution: Integral Desktop is active on the computer throughout the working day – it provides rapid information and an acoustic alarm for every incident. The control panel is identical to the one on the fire alarm control panel which makes it easy to use. Integral Mobile also sends a push message to the smartphone of the entire intervention team in the event of an alarm. No matter where the staff members are, at their desk or on the production floor, they immediately know where an incident is happening, thanks to the plain text message on their smartphone. "With Integral Mobile, you no longer need to go to the fire alarm control panel

**The fire alarm systems at TE Connectivity**

- 3 Integral IP control panels
- 716 automatic detectors
- 45 manual call points
- LIST system with 900 metres of sensor cable
- 2 Integral Desktop PC workstations
- 12 Integral Mobile users

## Relays from Austria for the whole world

TE Connectivity in Waidhofen an der Thaya and Schrack Seconet are linked not only by their long-standing cooperation in fire protection, but also by their common origins in the former Schrack company: The factory in Waldviertel was founded in 1964 under the name Schrack – today it forms part of the international TE Connectivity company with headquarters in Switzerland.
The relays from Waidhofen are used in washing machines and other appliances that can be found in every household. They are also widely used in applications for industry. TE Connectivity in Waidhofen also produces positively driven relays for safety circuits. These are used in lifts and sliding doors, for example. The smallest relay from Waidhofen is only the size of a fingernail – it is used in the automotive industry for battery management in vehicles.
Production runs 24/7, and 150 million relays are manufactured per year. Most of the products from Waidhofen are exported, with the EMEA region (Europe, Middle East, Africa) being the most important sales market followed by Asia and North America.
The competence centre in Waidhofen tests relays for their operating life by switching heating rods on and off countless times. For this purpose, 4000 heating elements are placed in a tank along with 13,000 litres of water. Among other things, the energy generated in this way is used for heating the building – this means that no further heating is needed at the Waidhofen facility, except in severe winter temperatures.

*The TE Connectivity factory in Waidhofen an der Thaya specialises in relays and other electronic components. The company has long relied on Schrack Seconet solutions for fire protection and is also a pioneer in the use of digital remote access: Integral Mobile is used for quick, location-independent information, while Integral Desktop is used for continuo us monitoring and convenient operation at a PC workstation.*

Since 1964, electronic components have been manufactured in Waidhofen an der Thaya and exported all over the world. Integral Mobile and Integral Desktop represent the latest solutions for digital remote access in preventive fire protection.

to get more detailed information; you can go to the source of the incident immediately. This is a huge advantage for us compared to the SMS communication we had before. That also gave us quick messages, but it did not specify the detector zone and the location," says Stefan Mayer.

The app also proves its worth during audits and revision processes: With Integral Mobile, specific fire incident control systems can be triggered and checked directly on site, for example. In principle, Integral Mobile can also be used to operate the system on a smartphone, provided the mobile device is located on the factory premises – this is automatically recorded using the GPS coordinates. However, it's even easier to operate via Integral Desktop, which is why the use of both applications has proven successful for Mayer – they complement each other perfectly.

**Intervention time before alarm notification is sent to the fire brigade**

A TUS connection to the volunteer fire brigade had been planned in the course of the factory extension. A concept with an intervention mode was implemented to prevent avoidable outbreaks. Mayer explains: "Not only does an unnecessary fire brigade intervention bring costs with it, you also want to avoid others having to leave their workplace if a fire is suspected." The intervention mode stipulates that an alarm must first be cancelled within one minute. One person then stays with the fire alarm control panel while a second person tries to clarify the situation on the scene within five minutes. If this does not succeed or if there is an additional alarm by a manual call point or a second automatic detector within the time window, the fire brigade is still automatically alerted.

The intervention mode is a proven success: For most alarm notifications, this prevents the fire brigade from being unnecessarily called out.

"With Integral Mobile, you no longer need to go to the fire alarm control panel to get more detailed information; you can go to the source of the incident immediately. That is a decisive advantage for us."

Stefan Mayer
*Environment, Health & Safety Coordinator Industrial, TE Connectivity Waidhofen an der Thaya*

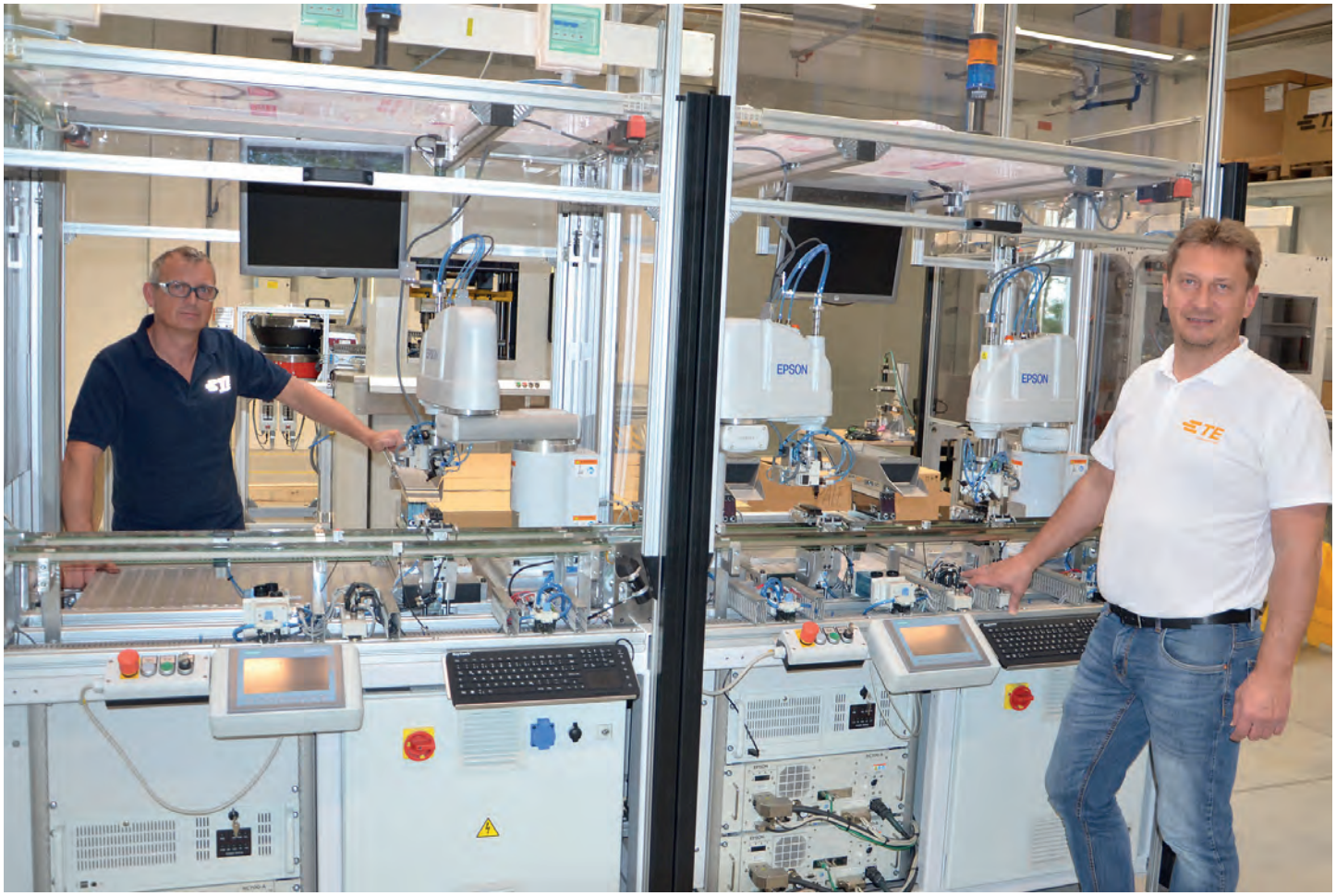
A check of the scene can quickly determine whether smoke was simply generated during the cleaning of machines. However, the fire alarm system has also reported genuine incidents in time. For example, a fire actually started in the drying facility in the galvanisation area due to an electrical defect. Two detectors went off at the same time. A staff member investigated the situation at the scene and was able to successfully extinguish the incipient fire with a fire extinguisher; the fire brigade used thermal images to confirm that there was no further danger.

**LIST system for photovoltaic system**

Since autumn 2022, the new photovoltaic system at TE Connectivity has also been optimally protected against fires and now contributes to the company's high electricity demand. Several options were examined for the fire protection measures required by the insurance company, and finally the LIST system was chosen. The line-type heat detectors are suitable for particularly demanding ambient conditions and simultaneously provide extremely accurate detection. 900 metres of sensor cables were laid on the back of the photovoltaic panels and in the cable routes. TE Connectivity has also made preparations for a blackout. The fire alarm system and other important systems continue to be supplied battery-backed and by an emergency power generator. The emergency generator is also in use outside of an emergency: It's used by the fire brigade during operations and is also continuously maintained there – a solution with clear advantages for both sides. ✱

TE Connectivity Waidhofen is the competence centre for relay development within the company. The automation department versions, builds and commissions the manufacturing systems developed in-house.

With 900 metres of sensor cable from LISTEC, the new photovoltaic system at TE Connectivity is optimally protected against fires.




PHOTOS: TE CONNECTIVITY

# The journey is not the destination

The new Visocall Mobile app for smartphones and tablets will make the work of caregivers much easier in the future. The new add-on to the Visocall IP communication system saves both time and travelling, increases the quality of care and reduces an important stress factor.

Caregivers in hospitals and nursing homes often walk 15 kilometres or more every day. However, much of that walking is unnecessary to begin with: Up until now, caregivers have often been called to the bedside first by a patient call. They only hear the patient's request once they get there, which often requires them to go somewhere else: For example, a resident would like a cup of tea or a patient needs a sleeping pill for the night. The proportion of errand calls is especially high in nursing and retirement homes.

### Direct speech connection with patients

For nurses, patient calls are associated with a high level of stress: The reason for the call could be an urgent situation or it could be deferred, and this uncertainty manifests itself in stress for a lot of people. The new mobile app Visocall Mobile takes a weight off your shoulders: "Our new solution is an important step forward in handling calls more efficiently. Caregivers receive a push message on their mobile phone when they receive a call. Regardless of whether they're in the duty room or somewhere else, they can either place the call in reminder mode to signal to colleagues 'I'm on my way' or establish a voice connection directly with the patient," explains product manager Christian Wimmer.

With Visocall Mobile, caregivers spend less time making unnecessary trips and more time with patients.

> **Visocall Mobile:** Fewer unnecessary trips, but more quality of care – the new Visocall Mobile is a true innovation for care in the digital era.

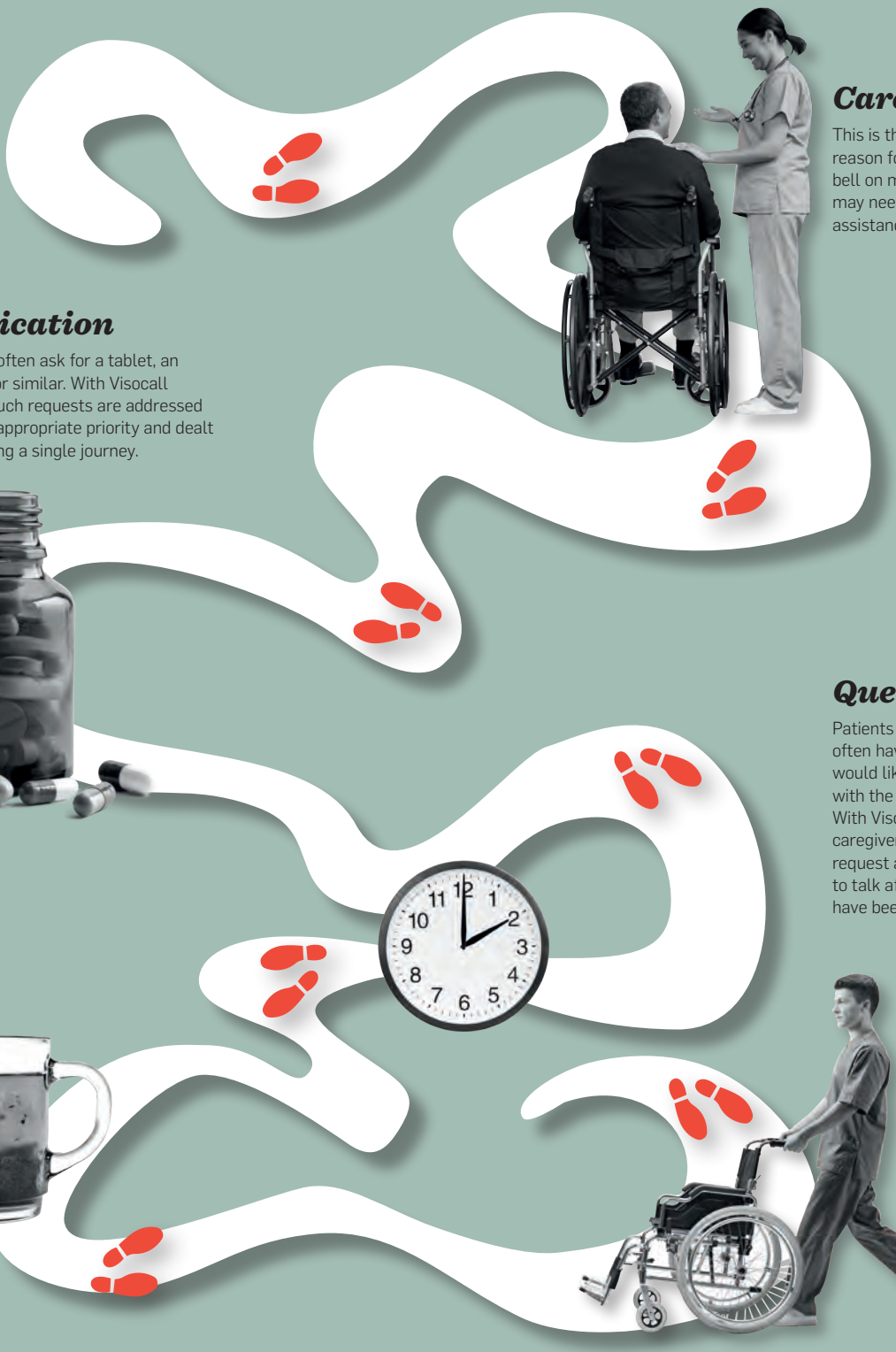
Especially considering the current shortage of skilled workers, Visocall Mobile provides important support – even when wards are short staffed, the quality of care can be maintained.

### Smartphones as a communication hub

Most nursing staff are already equipped with smartphones; in the future, mobile devices will be the central tool for patient documentation, medication processes, time recording, etc. "This makes choosing Visocall Mobile a future-oriented investment that often achieves the return on investment after only one year thanks to the increased efficiency," maintains Christian Wimmer.

Visocall Mobile is specifically an on-premise application; the sensitive data of the caregivers and the patients are only stored locally. During development, the requirements of the users were specifically included during focus groups. The mobile app will be accessible via both Android and iOS and will be available in 21 languages. The launch will start in Austria in January 2023; the other countries will follow successively. ✱

# PATIENT CALL
## THESE ARE THE MAIN TOPICS



### *Care request*

This is the most common reason for ringing the care bell on many wards. Patients may need a fresh bandage or assistance to go to the toilet.

### *Medication*

Patients often ask for a tablet, an infusion or similar. With Visocall Mobile, such requests are addressed with the appropriate priority and dealt with during a single journey.

### *Questions*

Patients and relatives often have issues they would like to discuss with the nursing staff. With Visocall Mobile, caregivers receive the request and can take time to talk after urgent issues have been dealt with.

### *Drink*

Requests for a cup of tea or similar really add up to long distances: The caregivers must first go to the patient's bed and then fetch the drink. With Visocall Mobile, such requests are received and addressed by the caregivers according to priority.

PHOTOS: PEOPLE IMAGES, PID JOE, DMITRY ZIMIN, EIVAISLA, LJUPCO / ISTOCK

PHOTO: PETER GRABNER

A radiometric dual camera protects the painting "Crucifixion in the Crowd", one of the most important Gothic panel paintings in Austria, painted by Conrad Laib, in Graz Cathedral... After many location changes and a long restoration period, this important panel painting is now displayed in the Friedrichskapelle in the cathedral.

# Precious art kept safe

Radiometric dual cameras are a special option for the earliest detection of fires. They use two sensors to generate both a thermal and an optical image. First, the systems make the heat radiation of an object visible by means of infrared light. A second lens also creates an optical video image, which makes verification much easier. For example, a smouldering fire can be precisely localised from a distance. This gives radiometric dual cameras distinct advantages over conventional detection: "Whereas with other detectors you have to check on site whether there's actually a fire, with the dual cameras an initial assessment can be made from almost anywhere via screen or app. This is because the video image can be transmitted to different, defined locations as desired," clarifies Thomas Engel, Product Manager for Fire Alarm Systems.

**Differentiated alerting processes**

Highly specialised expertise is required for the complex systems to function optimally, from the external power supply to the fine-tuning of communication between the camera and the fire alarm control panel. The personnel at Schrack Seconet define their own detailed alerting processes for each project. The entire field of view of the camera can be divided into several measuring zones that exceed the alarm threshold at different temperature values. The actions can also be differentiated: For example, at night, when no one is present in the building, an alarm can be forwarded directly to the fire brigade. During the day, the temperature threshold could be set differently in order to warn personnel on site even earlier so they can verify the danger – the fire brigade is then only called at higher temperatures," explains Thomas Engel. The calendar function can be used to limit the activation of the camera to certain times.

"Whereas with other detectors you have to check on site if there's actually a fire, with the dual cameras an initial assessment can be performed from almost anywhere via screen or app."

Thomas Engel
*Product Manager Fire Alarm Systems at Schrack Seconet*

**VdS and TRVB**

Schrack Seconet also works with systems that are approved in accordance with VdS. Progress on the topic of thermal radiometry can also be expected in the Austrian TRVB (Technical Guidelines for Preventive Fire Protection): "The TRVB previously only covered conventional video fire detection – the new draft now also takes thermographic fire detection into account. This makes us one of the few suppliers who already have such solutions," explains Wolfgang Ernst, Division Manager Sales Fire Alarm Systems.

**Protection for one of the most important altarpieces in Austria**

There is an especially exciting project in Graz. After a long restoration period, a radiometric dual camera protects one of the most important Gothic altarpieces, which is located in the Friedrichskapelle in the cathedral. The camera is directed from above at the painting "Crucifixion in the Crowd". It's part of the overall fire alarm system of the church and basically acts like a detector of the fire alarm system. It automatically alerts the fire brigade if a specific temperature threshold is reached. ✱

PHOTO: STUDIOFY / ISTOCK

## Fire protection in historic Buildings at the conference in St. Pölten

Preventive fire protection was the focus of the 18th fire protection symposium of FSE Ruhrhofer & Schweitzer GmbH at the FH St. Pölten. Alexander Schober from Product Management Fire Alarm Systems gave a lecture on "Fire alarm systems and early fire detection in historical buildings". In his lecture, he went into the challenges posed by installation, presented approaches to solutions as well as practical examples and spoke about the tension between early fire detection and the protection of historical monuments. A trade exhibition was held parallel to the conference. In addition to Schrack Seconet, material testing institutes, the Danube University Krems and the Austrian Institute for Construction Technology were among those present. Around 500 participants from German-speaking countries travelled to St. Pölten for the conference. ✱

*For fire protection in historic buildings, please also see the article to the left – a special solution for Graz Cathedral is presented there.*

NEWS

## Carinthia: Conference for Hospital Technology

At the end of September 2022, the annual meeting of the Austrian Federation of Hospital Technicians (ÖVKT) was once again held in Pörtschach. This year's theme was "Rethinking hospital technology – creative approaches to solutions". Christoph Karl, Head of Product Management Communication Systems, was on site again for Schrack Seconet. ✱

## New Security Standard

In future, a new standard will cover technical requirements for remote access services for security systems and therefore also for fire alarm systems: ÖNORM EN 50710 sets out technical requirements for remote access for the first time. The new standard is an important step towards the digital fire protection of the future. System manufacturers can use clearly formulated requirements to facilitate the development of technical solutions for remote access services. ✱


PHOTO: PATRICK EVELEENS

## On the podium at Healthcare Conference in Malaysia

Trust and sustainability in the healthcare sector were the focus of a panel discussion at the APHM International Healthcare Conference and Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. During the event, which was organised by Advantage Austria, several speakers from Austria presented their expertise. Area Sales Manager Patrick Eveleens was on the panel for Schrack Seconet. ✱

Patrick Eveleens of Schrack Seconet (far left in the picture) at the conference in Kuala Lumpur.

# Digitalisation momentum in the health sector

The push towards digitalisation triggered by the pandemic has proven to be a sustainable driver in the health sector in particular. Various applications that make our everyday lives easier have only become possible thanks to medical technology, software and infrastructure providers – Covid-19 has accelerated developments here that also exploit the potential of artificial intelligence (AI).

**Better diagnoses, more effective treatments**
Artificial intelligence is changing care and expanding precision medicine. Diseases can be better diagnosed using AI, complex diagnoses can be automated, disease progression can be observed more effectively and people can be better treated as a result. Currently, the demand for diagnostic services exceeds the supply of personnel. For this reason, the aim is to make better use of the incredibly fast-growing amount of health data – whether image data, laboratory values, pathological findings or protocols, as well as to develop solutions to cope with an ever-increasing workload.

**Precision medicine**
Software based on artificial intelligence, for example – a kind of digital assistant – helps radiologists to produce findings in less time. This "assistant" can identify and highlight different anatomical structures in diagnostic image data and automatically mark and measure pathological abnormalities. The AI-supported analysis of the software assistant results in a standardised, reproducible, and quantitative report.

The intelligent assistant may also make doctors aware of potential abnormalities that were not the focus of the original examination based on the referral and, in this way, might not have been detected. In addition, the AI-based software has the potential to aggregate patient data from a wide variety of sources and use pattern recognition algorithms to evaluate the data and suggest meaningful next steps in a personalised treatment programme based on current treatment guidelines.

AI algorithms thus provide doctors in a wide range of disciplines with tools to assist diagnosis, reduce errors and link diagnosis and treatment more closely.

**Best Practice – the e-vaccination passport**
One of the most important developments in Austria is the electronic vaccination card, which was implemented in record time in the surgeries of practising physicians in the course of a collaboration involving many parties. It contributes to the correct recording of vaccination progress and helps to fight the pandemic.

Making sustainable use of the digitalisation momentum Other digital achievements of the health industry, such as the virtual consultation and the e-prescription, are advances that we will not want to do without in the future, even after the pandemic has been overcome. The task now is to take the digitalisation momentum from the pandemic, to use it sustainably. ✱

PHOTO: IAN EHM

**Mag. Marion Mitsch** is Managing Director of the Association of the Austrian Electrical and Electronics Industries (FEEI) in Austria. She is also on the board of the Industrie 4.0 platform and in 2020 became the first woman to be elected to the board of the Umwelt Forum Haushalt private foundation.

# HEAD AND HELMET

WE HAVE LONG USED HELMETS TO PROTECT OUR MOST SENSITIVE BODY PART – THE SUMERIANS WORE THEM IN BATTLES AS EARLY AS 3000 BC. IT'S ONLY IN THE LAST 100 YEARS THAT HELMETS HAVE BEEN USED FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN WAR AND REPRESENTATION: A DOCTOR DEVELOPED A HEAD PROTECTOR MADE OF SHELLAC AND CANVAS FOR THE ISLE OF MAN MOTORBIKE RACE IN 1914. TODAY, PROTECTIVE HELMETS ARE STANDARD NOT JUST ON MOTORBIKES, BUT ALSO IN INDUSTRY AND COUNTLESS OTHER AREAS. HELMETS PROTECT YOU, BUT SOME PEOPLE STILL VALUE THEIR FREEDOM MORE. THIS IS WHY THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HELMETS ARE MANDATORY OR NOT IS FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED WHEN IT COMES TO SKI SLOPES, BICYCLES AND, MORE RECENTLY, E-SCOOTERS.

PHOTO: NERTHUZ / ISTOCK

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