

FENCING TIMES

UK & Ireland

2023, Issue 7



**Came presents
Gard LS4 arm barrier**

Choose your favourite way of reading Fencing Times



FREE DIGITAAL FREE FOREVER

Digital subscriptions are free of any charge. Just sign up with your email address and we'll notify you as soon as a new issue is available.

FREE GEDRUKT ONE PER COMPANY

Every fence installation company in  is entitled to one free print subscription of Fencing Times. Don't receive your free copy yet? Let us know and we'll take care of it.

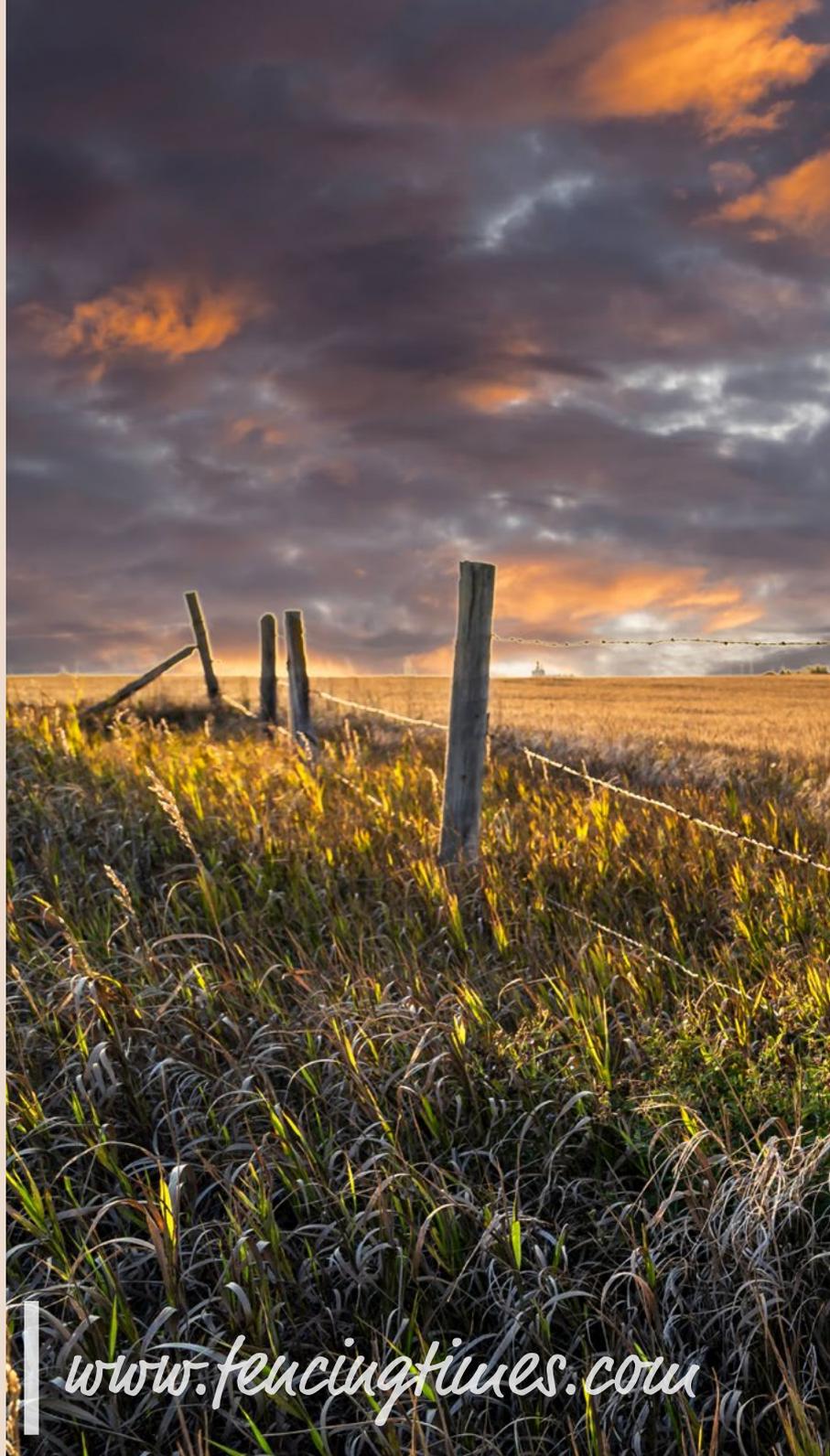


SUPPORT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR OUR FANS

Never fight about who reads first. Just order as many copies as you want, in your own language, from € 12,50 per month.

Your subscription helps us to create even more and even better content.

Go to www.fencingtimes.com and subscribe!



Fencing Times

TEAM:

Editors: Carla Pritchard & Rembrandt Happel
Design & Organisation: Janina Gemblér
Newsroom & Campaigns: Kristina Khomenko
Translations: Kelly Atkinson, Janina Gemblér, Pascale de Mari & James Duncan

CIRCULATION:

Fencing Times is published in both print and digital editions. More than 17,000 readers in 7000 businesses across Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK read Fencing Times in their own language. An additional international edition in English is sent to readers throughout Europe.

COPYRIGHT

The distribution and forwarding of individual articles or the entire issue to third parties is both expressly permitted and highly appreciated. We are happy to send you the original files for this purpose, if required. It is forbidden to copy articles or parts of articles without giving the source, or to pretend or imply it is your own content.

THE SMALL PRINT:

While this magazine has been compiled with the utmost of care, we are unable to guarantee the completeness, correctness or accuracy of the information provided herein. No rights can be derived from any of the information presented in this magazine. The opinions in this issue do not necessarily reflect the personal opinions of the editorial team or the publisher.



A barbed wire fence on a wheat field on the Canadian Prairies in Wheatland County Alberta. Photo: Ramon Cliff



CONTACT:

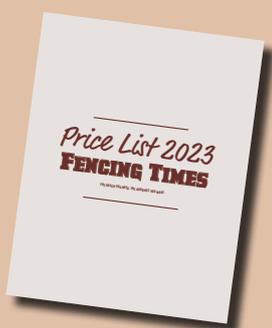
Fencing Times GmbH
Auf der Schanz 77
47652 Weeze, Germany
E-mail: team@fencingtimes.com
Phone:  +44 1227 919552
 +49 2823 9453014
 +31 85 2088447

SEND US YOUR NEWS

You've got news, that you'd like to share with the fencing industry? Contact our editors via team@fencingtimes.com or call +44 1227 919552. Editorial articles are always free of any charge.

ADVERTISE

Like to advertise in the coolest magazine of the fencing industry and brand your company with all fencing installers? call +44 1227 919552 or send an email to team@fencingtimes.com and we'll tell you all about it.



Were you also too stupid to qualify for any other job?

If you ask a fencing installer why he became one, the answer you often get is: "I wasn't clever enough to do anything else." That always rather winds us up here in the editorial department. Fencing is a profession in its own right and certainly not suitable for fools. It takes a good deal of knowledge, skill and intelligence to become a fencing installer.

For example, you should be able to distinguish the colours green, anthracite and black from each other. In the morning light especially, that's more difficult than the average person might think. And if you need to obtain a safety certificate, so you can work at an oil refinery for instance, you need to be able to correctly fill in the answers during an exam as per your boss's prompts.

What's more, you need to be able to read at primary school level and count up to a hundred roughly, so that you understand the work orders. You need to be able to work a calculator so you can calculate how many packs or bundles you need to transport to the construction site, and you should know the difference between left and right so that you get the gates to open in the customer's preferred direction.

A good work ethic is also important for a fencing installer. If you've scored some pills on Friday with a view to partying all weekend, you should at least have the presence of mind to phone your boss on Sunday evening and tell him you can't come in on Monday. Your boss may well have factored that in anyway. After all, he obviously knows you, but it's still the decent thing to do.

If your driving licence has been revoked again because you were caught drunk-driving on the motorway, tell your boss that as well. Then he can get someone else to drive and the truck won't be impounded by the police.

And, if you couldn't restrain yourself after payday and immediately spent half a day in the cafeteria feeding your entire salary into the fruit machine, you've got to be skilled at thinking up pretexts and excuses to explain why the job didn't get done.

That's all complete nonsense, of course. Fencing installers are inclined to poke fun at themselves but the industry really isn't composed entirely of uneducated football hooligans, borderline criminals, cowboys and other hopeless losers. The vast majority of installers are very good at their job. And just as in any other industry, every now and then you come across a super-installer.

They're the installers who get dozens of metres of fencing done in a jiffy. The ones who, when a job goes well, surprise their bosses in the afternoon by coming to pick up another pack of panels for the job. Those who never phone up to say they're stuck. It's the installers who get the biggest tips because they leave customers super-satisfied.

They're the installers the boss of every fencing business would commit murder for. Who are granted every day off they ask for – should they ask for it, but they never do – and who are pampered in every way because they're so valuable.



Now, of course, the question is: how do you become such a super-installer? There are no fencing schools, where you can learn our great profession. And even if they did exist, you probably wouldn't last long in one. Fencing installers and school don't go that well together.

If you're lucky, you'll have an old-school ganger or foreman you can pick up things from. But even without him, you can still become a super-installer. How? In the same way you became a regular installer: by gaining practical experience. All the fencing installers we know have learned the profession by falling over and picking themselves back up again. The super-installers simply fell over a bit more often and harder - and picked themselves back up a bit more often as well.

The great thing about it is: if you're already a fencing installer, you can practise every day. For free, in the boss's time. All you need are willpower, perseverance and discipline.

That starts by just paying attention and thinking, in everything you do. As you're setting off in the morning and before you exit the yard, go through the whole packing list one more time and check that you've got all the materials you need with you that day. Then you won't need to go to the hardware store halfway through the day, or even worse, all the way back to base. That's the worst possible waste of time.

And eliminating wasted time is where the most profit can be made. The fewer unproductive hours there are, the more valuable you become. Time is money, a universal law. So never call the business either to say that you can't continue until someone arrives with an aerial platform or a mini-digger. Try to improvise. You'll probably be able to borrow a loader or a forklift from somewhere in an industrial estate nearby.

The same applies to the fencing itself: make sure the metres go up at a rapid rate. The more metres you fit in the same time, the more valuable you are. It doesn't necessarily have to involve ridiculous muscle power or running faster. Here, too, the biggest gains lie in efficiency. Stop and think for 10 minutes or so before you start. How can you make sure you spend the least time walking around empty-handed?

During those first 10 minutes, also insert a stick in the ground that marks your goal for that day and keep going until you get there.

Make sure you never go home when there's only an hour's work left on a job. If you have to go back tomorrow for that one short hour, half a day will be lost with all the driving to and fro.

Then when you finally get back to base after a long day, don't run off to your own car and drive off site with screeching tyres. You really deserve that cold beer now, but in half an hour it will taste even better. The installation truck should be tidied up first and loaded for the next day. And topped up with fuel, so you don't have to do that tomorrow morning.

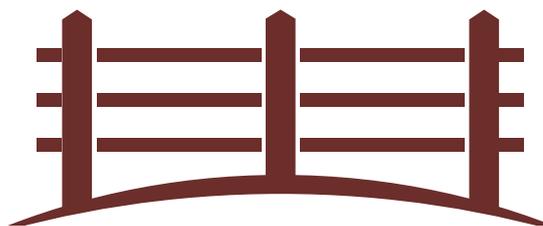
What also helps: setting off early. At least early enough to avoid the morning traffic jams. Then you'll also finish earlier in the afternoon and can get home before the evening rush hour. You'll have to shift your rhythm for a while, but you'll soon get used to it and it will save a huge amount of useless time.

You'll say, "OK, but why should I go to all that effort? Just so the boss can drive an even plusher AMG? What's in it for me?" And now we get to the point: a really good installer can earn so much that he can afford his own AMG.

Because the more metres you install, the more valuable you are to your boss and the more salary you can demand from him. He should happily pay you accordingly. Casually ask him what you can earn if you fix double the number of metres every day. Just for fun, even if you think it's impossible to fix double the number of metres every day at the moment.

That question is a nice first step towards becoming a super-installer. And before you know it, you'll be going to your school reunion in the nicest car out of all your former classmates, those who were not too stupid for anything else. ■





IN THIS FENCING TIMES:

The Publisher:

Were you also not clever enough to qualify for any other job? 4

From our readers:

Fence Post 9

Foto of the month 12

Livia's fence photos 32

From guest writers:

Raijmond abot perimeter protection 35

News from suppliers:

AFI and AFA organise best practice day 14

Irish fencers compete in Stock Fencing Championship 15

Three quarters of UK gates still lack fall protection 18

Came introduces Gard LS4 barrier 20

Holler opens Holler Benelux 25

Association of Fencing Industries invests in Fencex 30

And also:

Fences in the News 43

LOCINOX[®]

Let's make it better together

NEW BATTERY POWERED CODE LOCK FOR EASY ACCESS CONTROL



VALENTINO

For both new designs
and existing gates

SPECIFICATIONS

- ✓ Weather protected illuminated electronic code panel on both sides
- ✓ Energy efficient, with up to 150,000 open/close cycles on same set of batteries
- ✓ Low battery warning light
- ✓ Support for free-exit, pushbar, and code controlled handles
- ✓ Key-operated unlocking and programming functionality
- ✓ Supports permanently open codes



Scan me
for more
information



www.locinox.com



HQ: +32 56 77 27 66
CEE: +48 71 758 21 00



help@locinox.com

D&D Technologies®

World's most trusted gate latches, locks and hinges



LokkLatch® Deluxe



LokkLatch® Plus



Privacy and security gate latches that lock from both sides. Made from industrial strength polymer and stainless steel. Highly adjustable, will not rust, sag, bind or stain.



TrueClose® Regular



TrueClose® HD



Self-closing hinges for wood or vinyl gates. Easy to install and adjust including self-closing speed. Suitable for child safety or high-traffic applications.



Available now, contact our team

UK +44 (0) 1342 327280

NL +31 (0) 30 291 98 47

enquiries@ddtechglobal.co.uk

www.ddtech.com

Warranty conditions vary according to gate or door application and usage. See full Warranty details and limitations on D&D Technologies' website.

Place your first order & receive a **FREE Gate Handle***

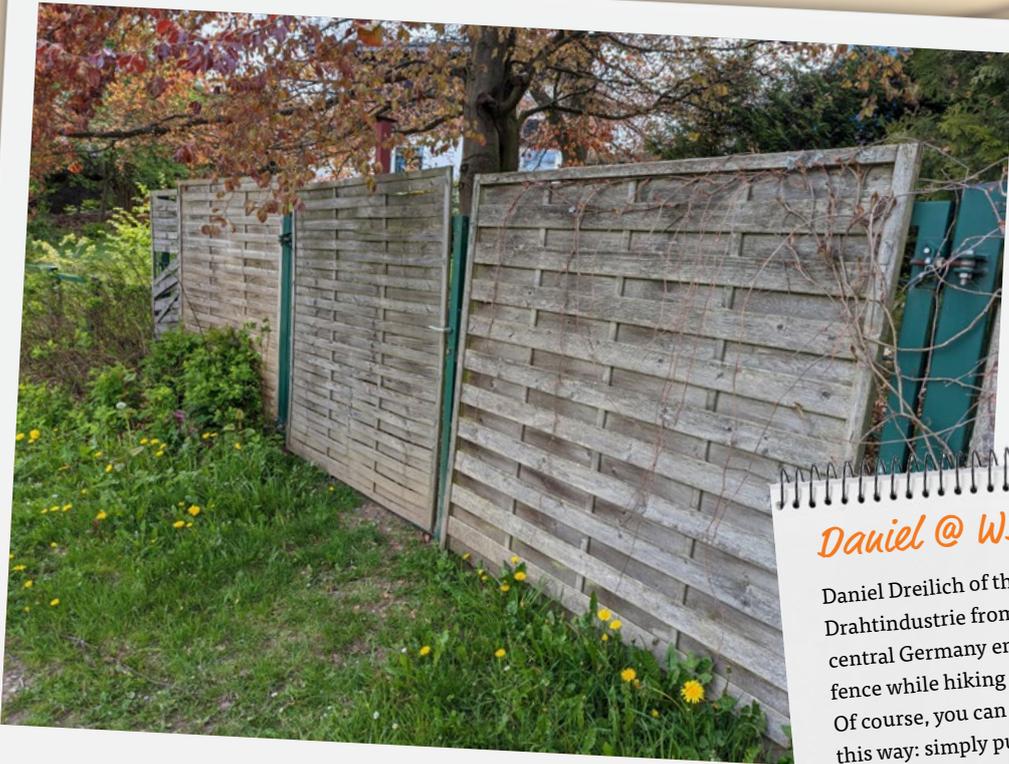
* Quote reference FT23





Ian @ Crediton Fencing

Ian Parsons of Crediton Fencing near Exeter in south-west England came across this birdie on a barbed wire fence. Nice photo, Ian! Thank you!



Daniel @ WDI

Daniel Dreilich of the Westfälische Drahtindustrie from Altgandersheim in central Germany encountered this unusual fence while hiking in the Harz mountains. Of course, you can also make a privacy fence this way: simply put some old wooden fence parts against your steel gate. Great solution, or perhaps not. It's obvious that this customer didn't visit Olivier. Thank you for the photo, Daniel!

Ralf @ Hema

Ralf Böhmer of Hema of Düsseldorf came across this gate in Ireland, though he didn't tell us where exactly. A gem of a gate - they don't make them like that any more. Many thanks for the photo, Ralf!



John @ ABC Hekwerk

John van Meegen of ABC Hekwerk Zuid-Oost in Lottum in the Netherlands spotted this work of art in Polignano a Mare, a coastal town right at the bottom of the Italian boot on the Adriatic Sea. The infill is nice, but so is the latch - it's been done on the lower beam. Many thanks for the photo, John!



Follow us online as well

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/fencing-times/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fencingtimes>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/fencing_times/





Denis @ Walput

This photo of the Karlsruhe Zoo's new Africa Savannah comes from Denis Valput of fencing company Draht Walput in Rheinstetten. It's the new enclosure for the Karlsruher Zoo's giraffes, zebras and antelopes. The customer wanted the fence to look as natural as possible, so Denis' lads put together this wooden fence on site, by hand. Mission accomplished. The Locinox Construction Radio is on its way to Rheinstetten. Thanks for sending that in, Denis!

Would you too like to win a Locinox Construction Radio? Send in a photo of your nicest project to fencepost@fencingtimes.com.

AFI and AFA organise best practice day

At the end of September, UK trade organisations the Association of Fencing Industries and the Agricultural Fencing Association are holding a Best Practice Day in Cirencester.

The agenda includes several topics. One: different types of netting, not just those used for livestock. Two: how to adapt techniques for strainers, strutting, turners and wire work in different conditions. And three: the use of materials other than wooden posts.

Fencers Rob Bell, Jono Bradley, James Corbett, Mark Evans, Si Gibbs, Ross Heaven, Peter Redgwel, Nic Quan, Duncan Samson, Rory Samson and Charlie Wright will come to Cirencester to demonstrate their best techniques.

The Best Practice Day will be held at the Royal Agricultural University on 30 September from 10am to 4pm. Tickets can be booked via the AFI website.

Traditional Cotswolds weavers' cottages in Bibury, near Cirencester



Irish fencers compete in Stock Fencing Championship

The first Sunday in July marked the second Irish Stock Fencing Championship to take place at the Clonmel Show, one of the oldest agricultural shows in Ireland. This year's championship followed an initial trial in 2022, pitting five teams of two contractors to battle it out for the top title. The event was sponsored by Tornado Wire and Scanpole.



Each team was required to erect a stock proof wire fence, digging the holes by hand, securing the posts and joining the wire, all within a fixed time frame. Contestants were scored on the standard of workmanship and the time taken to complete the challenge.

The winning team – Dan Flood from Dan Flood Plant Hire & Fencing and Alan Duffy from AD Fencing – secured themselves an all-expenses paid trip to compete at the Tornado Wire Fencing competition due to be held at the NSA Sheep Event, Three Counties Showground in Malvern next year. This major event will also see competitors up against stiff competition from literally the other side of the world, as the winners of the New Zealand Fencing Competition's Golden Pliers event will also be taking part.

“2022 was very much a trial run,” says Jack Bennett, Tornado Wire’s Technical Sales Engineer for Ireland. “It was encouraging to see more entries – not

exclusively from Ireland – participate in this year’s Irish Stock Fencing Championship. It’s great to see such enthusiasm and passion for the craft amongst the competitors, not to mention sheer strength and tenacity given the need to hand dig the holes, a job that is usually handled by machinery in the UK. We’re optimistic that the competition will continue to grow in stature with a further increase in contractors wanting to compete in the 2024 event.”

Dan Flood, part of the winning duo says: “This competition represents a really important event to us. It offers a chance to witness new techniques, meet new people and offers a genuine industry networking opportunity. Tornado Wire has done a fabulous job in raising awareness of the championships which has clearly helped to increase the number of entries. Winning this title simply underpins my business’ commitment to delivering an exemplary standard of fencing and constantly improving my skills.” ■



HOLLER

GATES - FENCES - AUTOMATION

ONLY TRUST
THE ORIGINAL



Image: Bi-folding speed gate Quattro 8 x 2,25 m

Reliable solutions for perimeter protection and access control

Extensive standard programme and individual solutions for aluminium gates up to 25 m width and 5 m height

AUSTRIA



Factory
Production

Holler Tore GmbH
Dorfstraße 31
8435 WAGNA

Tel. +43 3452 86031-0

mail@holler-tore.at
www.holler-tore.at

GERMANY



Holler Tore Deutschland GmbH
Parsberger Straße 9
92355 VELBURG

Tel. +49 9492 895 4600

mail@holler-tore.de
www.holler-tore.de

SWITZERLAND



Holler Tore Schweiz AG
Obere Au 4 / Rosental
9545 WÄNGI

Tel. +41 71 558 4747

office@holler-tore.ch
www.holler-tore.ch

POLAND



Holler Polska Sp. z o.o.
Szarych Szeregów 2
33-100 TARNÓW

Tel. +48 733 791 167

info@holler.pl
www.holler.pl

SLOVENIA



Holler, vrata in ograjni sistemi d.o.o.
Ukmarjeva ulica 4
1000 LJUBLJANA

Tel. +38 641 973 679

prodaja@holler.si
www.holler.si

ITALY



Holler Italia SRL
Viale Vittorio Emanuele II n.51/2
31029 VITTORIO VENETO (TV)

Tel. +39 331 270 8050

info@holler-italia.it
www.holler-italia.it

ROMANIA



HOLLER ROMÂNIA
Str. Ciucaș 14
505800 - ZĂRNEȘTI, BRAȘOV

Tel.: +40 734350987

contact@holler.ro
www.holler.ro

Three quarters of UK gates still lack fall protection

UK-based Gate Safe is known for its gate safety courses, but the organisation also regularly carries out inspections of existing gates at the request of gate owners who want to know if their gate conforms to current safety requirements.

Of the 86 inspections carried out this spring and summer, three quarters of the gates were found not to be protected against collapse of the leaves. "This is clearly not in accordance with the new version of EN 12604," says Gate Safe founder Richard Jackson. "According to this standard, every gate must have three hinges." Only 9 out of the 86 gates were fitted with 3 hinges. Out of the gates with only 2 hinges, 12 had been updated with a safety cable. None of the other 63 gates had any form of fall protection.

"We looked at gates all over the country," says Jackson, "We can therefore assume that the survey is representative for the whole of the UK. But all of the gates we looked at belonged to owners with above-average concerns for safety, otherwise they would not have got in touch with us. If we repeated the survey on all gates in the UK, the results would be significantly worse."

Richard Jackson





As Jackson says, the results of the survey are not encouraging: "It's really disappointing that in spite of the standard being updated 5 years ago, there are still so many gates lacking 3 hinges or without fall protection in the field. If you carry out maintenance or repairs on a swing gate, you can immediately see whether it is protected against leaf collapse. If it isn't, all you need to do is fit a fall protection device and a major risk will be eliminated. The component for this costs some 10 pounds sterling. We would really recommend that installers get on and do this." ■

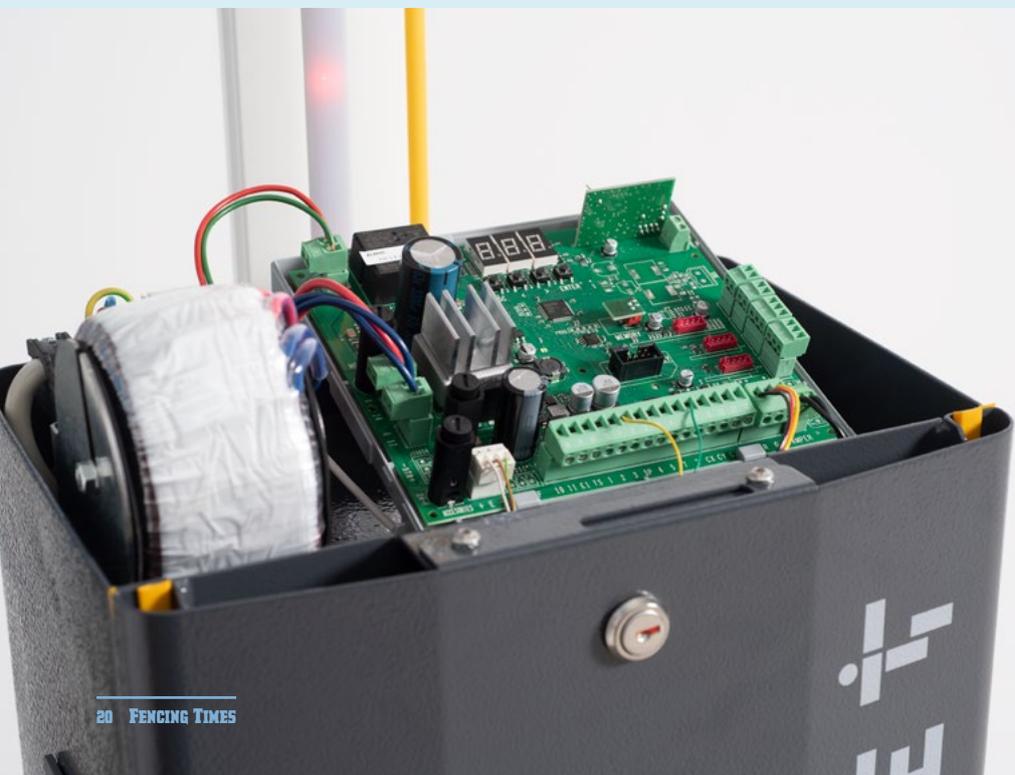
Here in the editorial office, it's our guess that the same study in the other European countries wouldn't deliver any better results, but for us the results are striking nonetheless. After all, it was mainly the UK delegation in the CEN¹ working groups that pushed the case for the three-hinge provision in the standard, because there had been several occurrences of someone in the UK getting fatally injured under a collapsed gate leaf when one of the hinges had failed.

1) CEN (French: Comité Européen de Normalisation) is a standardisation organisation founded in 1961 by the national standardisation committees in the European Economic Community and the European Free Trade Association. CEN standards are referred to as European Norm (EN)

Came introduces Gard LS4 barrier

Came, an Italian access control manufacturer has launched a new barrier this spring. It is called Gard LS4 and joins the range alongside the GT and PX series. The LS4 has a boom length of up to 3.8 metres and is regarded as an entry-level model.

“The GT and PX series are modern, well-equipped barriers,” says Marc Daub, marketing manager of the German branch of Came in Korntal near Stuttgart. “Up to now, customers with a more modest budget and who needed less equipment, have had to rely on the orange Gard range. For them, we now have the LS4: a favourably priced but modern barrier in the same new style as its big brothers.”





CAME

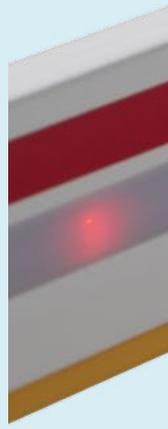
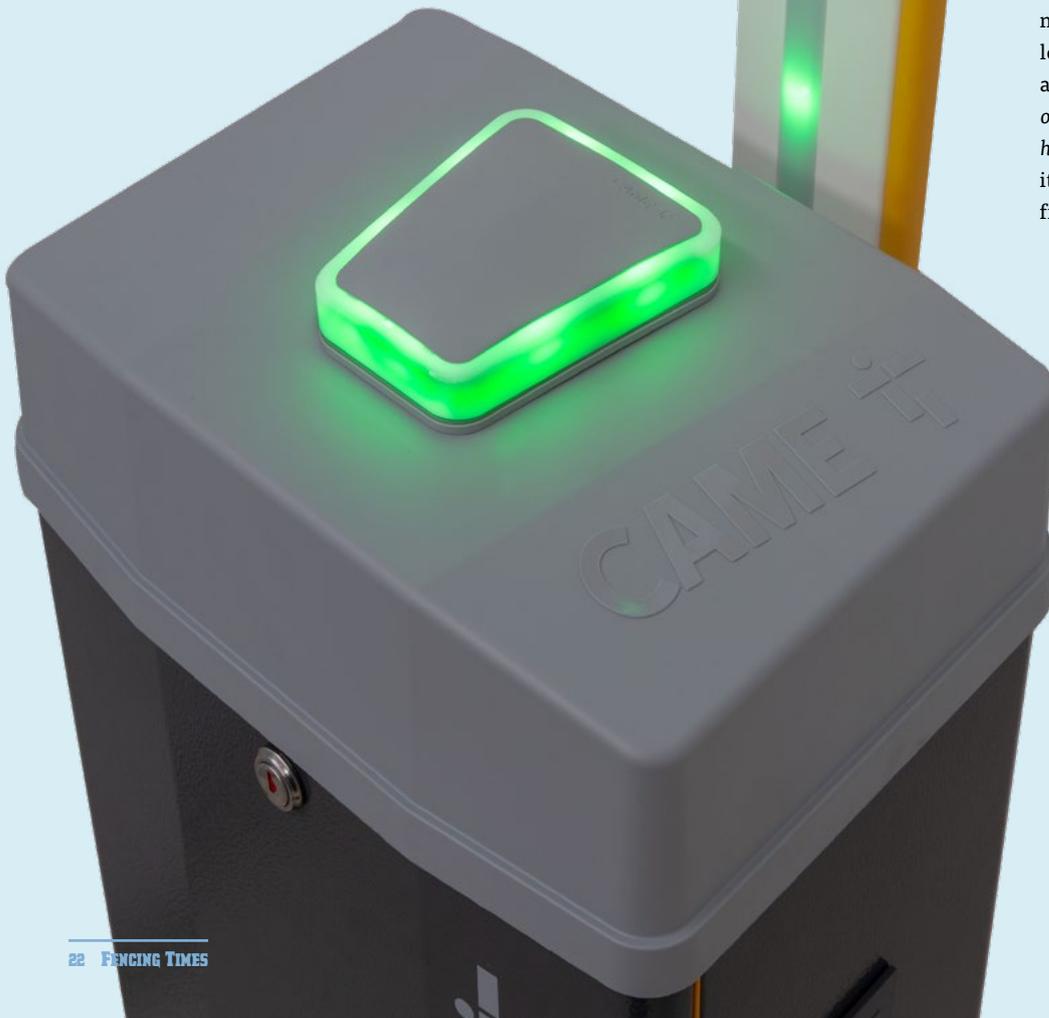


POSITION

There are some design differences between the LS4 and the GT4. "The GT4 has a cover with an integrated LED strip and a lock, with which you can open it easily," says Daub. "The LS4 has neither of these. Its cover is simply screwed into place. The maximum deployment time and number of cycles between service intervals is also slightly lower with the LS4, but at 300 cycles per hour and a Mean Cycles Between Failures (MCBF) of 1.5 million, it is still well above what is necessary for most locations. At the same time, the LS4 does feature a modern controller, one that can be programmed and configured with Came's Connect Setup App on the phone or tablet."

ENCODER

The barrier's 24-volt drive motor is equipped with an encoder. "The electronics in the controller ensure the barrier moves smoothly," Daub continues. The controller continuously analyses the forces acting on the barrier arm as it moves and adjusts the speed of the motor to suit them. This guarantees a long service life and reliable operation in all weather conditions." The control unit of the Gard LS4 is located at the top of the housing and angled upwards. "This makes it readily accessible when you stand in front of it."

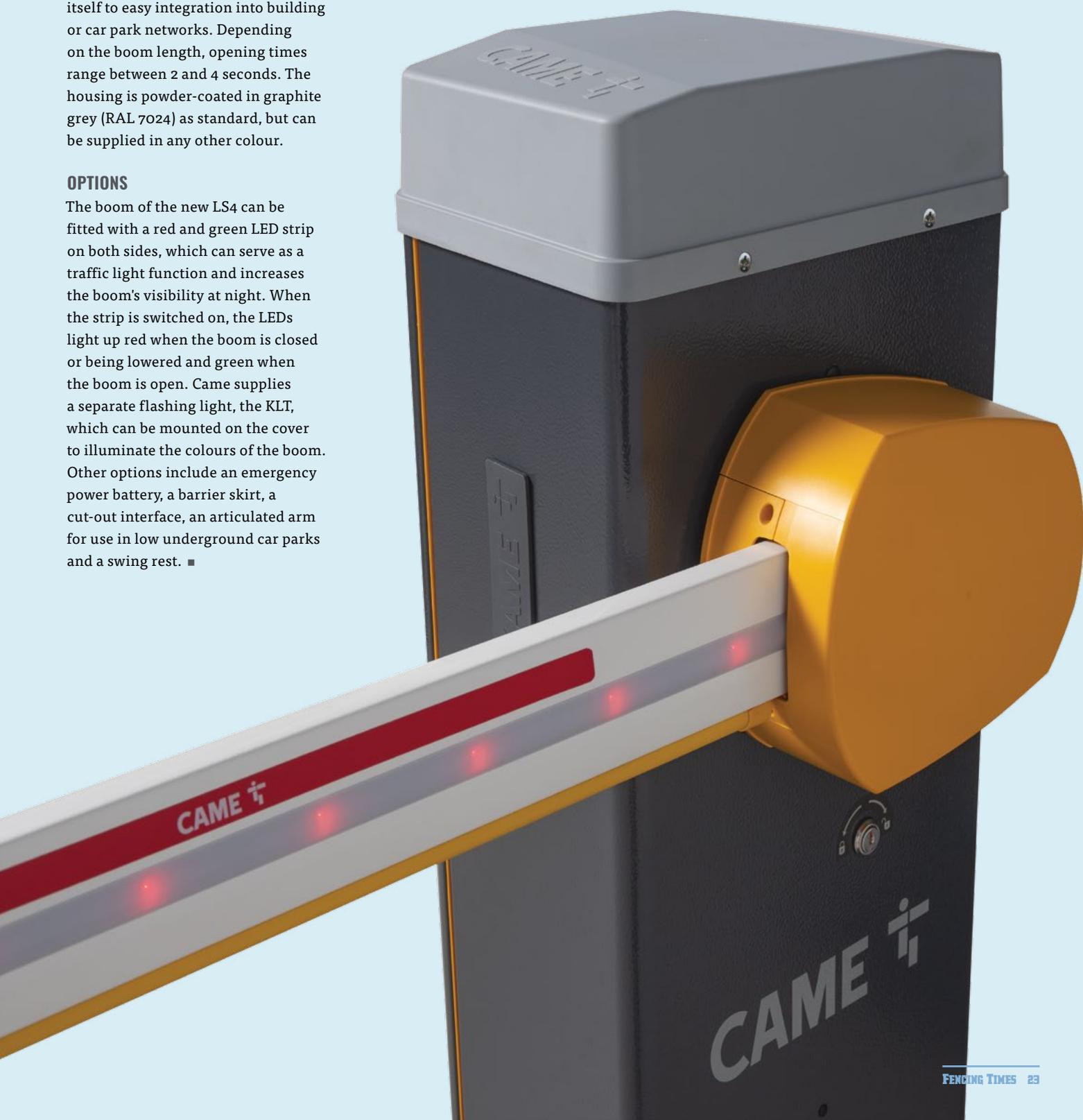


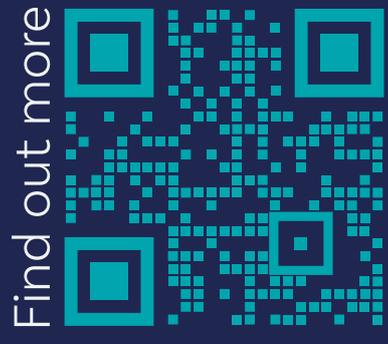
SPECIFICATIONS

The new LS4 has a 24-volt DC motor and is available in boom lengths from 2.5 to 3.8 metres. For easy connection of accessories, it features a connection for Came's own BUS system, and thanks to its preparation for the Modbus system, it also lends itself to easy integration into building or car park networks. Depending on the boom length, opening times range between 2 and 4 seconds. The housing is powder-coated in graphite grey (RAL 7024) as standard, but can be supplied in any other colour.

OPTIONS

The boom of the new LS4 can be fitted with a red and green LED strip on both sides, which can serve as a traffic light function and increases the boom's visibility at night. When the strip is switched on, the LEDs light up red when the boom is closed or being lowered and green when the boom is open. Came supplies a separate flashing light, the KLT, which can be mounted on the cover to illuminate the colours of the boom. Other options include an emergency power battery, a barrier skirt, a cut-out interface, an articulated arm for use in low underground car parks and a swing rest. ■





Discover Excellence

Precision Welded Mesh Products

Proudly Made in the UK

Holler opens Holler Benelux

As of this summer the Austrian sliding gate manufacturer Holler, from Wagna near Graz in southern Austria, has a branch in the Netherlands too. Known as Holler Benelux, it serves as the link between the dealers and the factory.



Henk Stetering and
Lisa Holler

“**B**elgium and the Netherlands are important markets in which our gates are very popular,” says managing director Lisa Holler, who is also the daughter of the company’s founder. “At the same time the distance is large – it’s 1200 kilometres from us to Utrecht or Antwerp. Right from the start our motto has been that we want to be close to our customers, so we’ve set up a separate company: Holler Benelux.”

RANGE

Holler’s range chiefly consists of industrial sliding gates with a passage width ranging from 3 to 25 metres. The company also manufactures swing gates, folding gates and fencing. All fences and gates are made of aluminium. Lisa Holler: “Our sliding gates account for far and away the majority of our turnover and are very popular throughout Europe thanks to their quality, which is quite simply unsurpassed. At the same time, they fall into a very affordable price range. Since the company began we have tried to match the quality, price and reliability to exactly

what the average industrial customer expects from their access solution. We know that Belgian and Dutch customers have roughly the same expectations as those in Germany and Austria, which means that there’s still room for significant growth in the Benelux. But that isn’t going to work from faraway Austria – we can only do it if we’re there in the local market.”

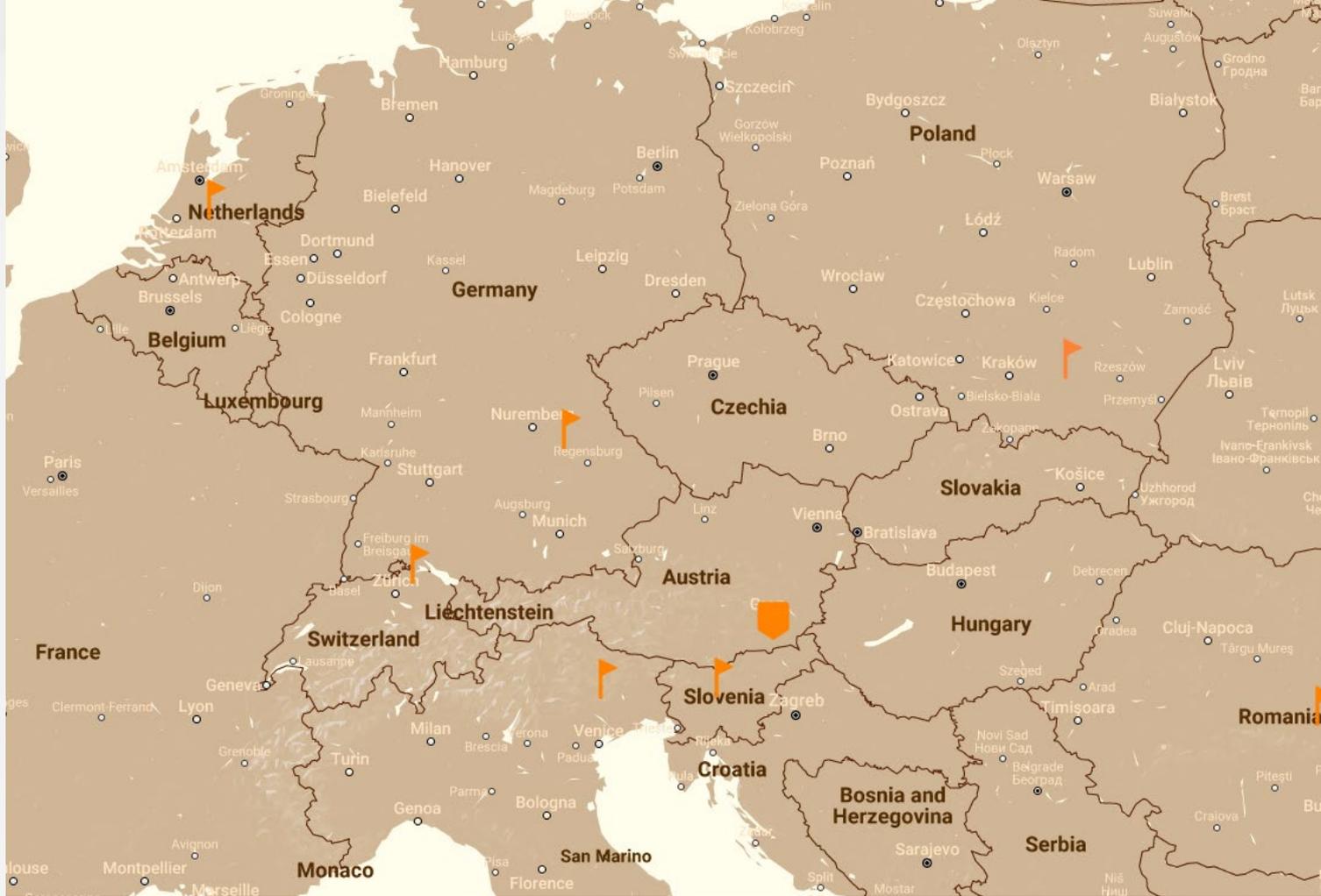
THE LINK

For this reason, Holler wanted to find a Belgian or Dutch director for the branch. After a six-month search the chosen candidate was Henk Sleitering, who has travelled all around Europe in recent years representing Irish intercom manufacturer AES. “Henk is a driven and ambitious guy who nonetheless has both feet on the ground,” Lisa Holler says. “This is 100 percent in line with our own mindset as well as with how we want to run our business, so Henk was the ideal candidate for us. We’re extremely happy that we now have him on our team.”



Sletering sees the move as an enjoyable challenge. "I'm half Austrian and have lots of family in Tyrol," he says. "I have an affinity with the Austrian mindset and culture, which obviously helps. But there's also a click from a business point of view. Ewald and his daughter Lisa have big goals, which I find enormously motivating. At the same time, I have a lot of freedom in how I work towards achieving those goals. That makes for a really good collaboration."

Henk Sletering



DEALERS

In the Benelux Holler works with dealers who receive the sliding gates from Austria in batches, assemble them, get them ready as much as possible and then deliver them on to the fencing installer. Sletering stresses that Holler explicitly doesn't want to take the work over from these dealers with the new branch. "Thibo in Beek en Donk, for example, is one of these dealers," he says. "They have Gold status with us, which means that they're completely focused on helping fencing installers quickly, efficiently and competently. So then I'm the link between dealers like Thibo and the factory in Austria. My job will be to ensure that the dealers are able to provide the best possible service to their customers and get solutions that are tailored to their own segment of the market."

GROWTH

Following on from branches in Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Italy, Romania and Slovenia, Holler Benelux is the company's seventh foreign branch. "We've allocated a year to expanding the dealer network in such a way that every installer in Belgium and the Netherlands is easily able to buy a Holler gate from a dealer they trust and are comfortable working with," Sletering says, "no matter whether they live in De Panne on the Belgian coast, or the Dutch city of Delfzijl in north-eastern Groningen." ■





Association of Fencing Industries invests in Fencex

The Association of Fencing Industries (AFI), a British industry association, has bought a major stake in Fencex, a trade show for the fencing industry that is held bi-annually near Birmingham. The investment – for an undisclosed figure – follows negotiations with Ian Law, who founded Fencex 20 years ago. For the AFI, it marks an important step towards fulfilling its ambitious growth plans.

As an official stakeholder, the AFI intends to use its involvement with Fencex as a means to achieve wider engagement with the fencing community which includes rolling out more training and development initiatives to provide guidance on best practice – these will feature at Fencex 2025.



“Fencex is the ideal platform to connect with the industry”

Fencing Times spoke to AFI Chairman Chris Hackett to find out more about the new arrangement. “The AFI membership currently sits at around 250 and we have aspirations to grow this as much as possible,” he says. “As an organisation dedicated to promoting safety, quality and professionalism throughout the fencing industry we are here to represent the best interests of every fencing contractor. We recognise that in the past, we’ve not been as successful as we’d like in connecting with those working directly in the fencing industry, nor have we done enough to promote the benefits associated with membership to the AFI. Fencex provides an ideal platform to address these issues and we’re excited to have input into the 2025 format, which will definitely include more training and development events such as the Timber in Ground Contact conference and profiling our successful Apprenticeship programme.”

“Fencex currently attracts 400 visitors to the single day event,” Hackett continues. “We believe that by making more installers appreciate the value of what the show has to offer, we can grow that number. The show currently runs at NAEC Stoneleigh, Coventry which effectively represents the centre of the country, but there is a possibility that in the future, we may consider events in the north and south.” The next edition of Fencex takes place 11th October 2023. ■



Chris Hackett



In addition to being a fencing installer, Livia Graf is a photographer. Whenever her guys finish off a project, she drives to it and takes stunning fencing photos. This is one of them.





WE CREATE SECURITY. WE ARE YOUR DEFENCE.

So how big, how small, complex or extreme your needs are, ask us. We think in possibilities, not in limits.

Perimeter security isn't always just outside

Usually when we're talking about securing a perimeter with detection systems, we assume that there's a clear space around the area or structure to be protected. In that clear space we can then install fences (with fence detection on them), install microwave and laser detection systems, and bury ground cables in the earth. But there are also situations in which that clear space isn't there, because the structure to be protected is close to the edge of the site. Then the perimeter is formed by a garden wall, building wall or the roof of the structure, meaning that perimeter security and building security coincide in such a case.

For example, a while back I was at an electric bike factory. It was an older industrial complex and the original clear space around the main building was now filled with additional halls and storage hangars. One of the hangars was extremely close to the mesh fence that surrounded the site; barely 2 metres away. Coincidentally, this was the hangar containing the expensive electric motors.

The factory was secured with cameras outside in the grounds and motion detectors in the hangars, but they were all arranged

Raijmond Rondeel

Raijmond Rondeel has worked in perimeter security for many years. For Fencing Times, he writes about securing outdoor areas with detection systems. Do you have questions? Or a practical example - and are curious what Raijmond would have offered here? Send him an email at raijsmond@fencingtimes.com

in such a way that they would only raise the alarm if intruders followed the normal traffic routes on the site and (very considerably) used the entrance doors. Nobody had considered that unwanted intruders might also come through the property next door simply by making a hole in the old mesh fence, and go on to then use a battery-powered angle grinder 2 metres further down to make a hole in the thin corrugated sheeting of the shed and make off with more than 100 thousand euros of electric motors. Needless to say, that was exactly what ended up happening – and it really was a piece of cake for the burglars. The cameras in the loading and unloading zone saw nothing, nor did the magnetic contacts on the access doors have any effect whatsoever. Eventually some motion detectors in the hangar sounded the alarm, but obviously the culprits were already inside by then. In

that situation the security company or police have far too little time to respond. And that was what happened in this case: by the time the police arrived, it was already so quiet on the site and in the hangars that initially they thought the motion detectors had gone off for no reason. The opposite was true: the loss was enormous and, of course, in no time flat a letter from the insurance company arrived demanding better security.

UNNECESSARY

It's a shame that so many people have to learn by trial and error, because in this situation it would have been very easy to detect an attempted burglary in plenty of time. I've discussed the microphone cable system many times in previous columns. This system is able to detect all mechanical attempts to get past the barrier to which the sensor cable is

attached. So if you install a PVC installation tube – very securely – to the inside of the sheet steel wall of the hangar and you run the microphone cable through it, this will detect any mechanical vibrations caused in an attempt to break through the wall. These might be from grinding, cutting, sawing, breaking, anything you try. Any attempts to get through that wall will cause mechanical vibrations, which the sensor cable detects and converts into an electrical signal thanks to its microphonic capability. The only requirement is that the cable needs to be able to make good contact with the wall that is being secured.

You therefore need to attach the installation tube securely, with a metal saddle every 20 to 30 centimetres. Depending on the brand and type of microphone cable, it has a range of around a metre above and below.



In an extra-secure situation, I would put the tube 80 centimetres from the ground, so you are protecting a height of at least 1.8 metres against all types of attempted entry. There's no better type of perimeter protection. Flat roofs could also be protected in this way, by screwing an installation tube containing a microphone cable to the inside of the roof every 2 metres.

Intruders are ripping open flat roofs too, for example at my own local supermarket recently. It's located in a well-secured building; at least, that's what the owner thought. And you can't really blame him either, because intruders come from outside and want to get inside, so everyone thinks of them using a window or door. The windows, doors and other openings in the facade were indeed well-secured in this case. But if the goods are valuable and attractive enough,

burglars are more creative than many people think. In this case the burglars were after the supermarket's stocks of cigarettes and they just came straight through the roof.

The software used by modern systems is so good that you can make very precise adjustments to the sensitivity. This ensures that birds and cats on the roof don't trigger an alarm. You can even have the software ignore a schoolboy climbing onto the roof to retrieve a football. But as soon as there is an 'attack' on the roof – sawing, cutting, grinding, breaking – an alarm is triggered immediately.



There are many ways to use the microphone-cable-in-a-installation-tube system; you could even have a tube bricked into a wall. Even then the system will detect any attempt to break through the wall.

However, there are a few things you need to keep in mind with this system. The first is the total maximum length of the sensor cable, which is often limited to 300 metres. Or rather, to two 150-metre cables per central unit. This means that you need to think carefully about the location of these units. For short distances, it's simple: you place the unit in the middle. But if you need to secure larger distances and you require multiple units, it can mean a certain amount of puzzling. And obviously you should make sure that you lay the tube containing the sensor cable neatly around an access door (often these are emergency exit doors) – so along the top. These doors have now become the building's weak spot, so ensure they are fitted with a magnetic contact at the very least. But, as burglars can also cut a hole in this type of door with an angle grinder, I would install a motion detector behind the door too. Then you will have protected the entire outer façade of the building from all types of intrusion.





COSTS

With perimeter security, you often automatically assume that the entire perimeter needs to be secured; after all, it's called perimeter security for a reason. But sometimes a site is so big that doing so will automatically mean very high costs for the client. This can be like using a cannon to shoot a mosquito, especially when large parts of the site don't really contain anything of value to an intruder.

In my example of the burglary at the electric bike factory, the main targets were the electric motors and the batteries. There were just a few pallets of high value. The entire perimeter of the hangar now needed to be secured just for that; easily 200 metres or more. In such a case, the choice is sometimes made to divide the site into compartments, aka 'compartmentalisation'. You then build a cage in the hangar, made of twin wire fencing for example. (Insurance companies also often accept a cage made of thin rebar panels, but of course any mention of this in the Fencing Times would be sacrilege!) Obviously you need a good and sturdy gate as well, and you then fit this cage with a microphone cable system. If you then also install a few motion detectors for additional security outside the cage, most insurance policies will accept this too. Any intruders will be detected by the motion detectors before they even reach the cage. The reaction time is already running. However, the intruders still have to make their way through the mechanical protection, which has been equipped with detection too and, all being well, will provide sufficient resistance and delay. The intruders will then be unable to make off with a pallet of motors before the police arrive.



MAINTENANCE

Microphone cable systems require very little maintenance. When microphone cable is used in an outdoor situation on the fence, there are sometimes moisture problems, and thus irritating problems with the system, which is obviously not relevant in this situation. And the wall of a shed isn't likely to sag, as can happen with a mesh fence. The microphone cable in the installation tube is well-protected. Testing the system once or twice a year is sufficient, depending on the risk of burglary. The central unit that monitors the microphone cable can be connected to a laptop with software that can display the alarm signal. By attempting mechanical attacks here and there, you can see whether these signals are being picked up. So you use a hammer or other hard tool to bang on the wall a bit and then see if this signal is picked up. You can also adjust the sensitivity if required. Obviously you should also check the system's emergency power supply. Does the system still work even when the power is out? Also check that all relay contacts are still working and that alarms and malfunction alerts do actually reach the person(s) or authorities who need to be notified.

FENCE OR BUILDING?

If the building really is right on the property boundary, you have no choice and will need to attach the perimeter security to the building. If the building is a few metres from the boundary, you can choose whether to install the microphone cables on the wall of the building or put them on the fence. Installing them on the building saves metres, and the more stable environment of the building eliminates unnecessary notifications caused by any and all weather conditions. In addition, a building's wall is not likely to sag the way a mesh fence might. But beware: you are also giving the intruders a gift in the form of reaction time. And reaction time is and remains the foundation of every detection system: the more time you create for the police or security guards to react, the more likely it is that the burglars will be caught, with or without their spoils. And while a hole in the wall is obviously more annoying than a hole in the fence, it will certainly be detected. ■



According to a survey of 100 installers:

84% reported unsafe design to be the most common cause for automated gate accidents in the last 10 years

Overwhelming majority advised that well over half of gates checked / maintained were 'unsafe by design'

62% believed the design errors are the responsibility of inappropriately trained installers

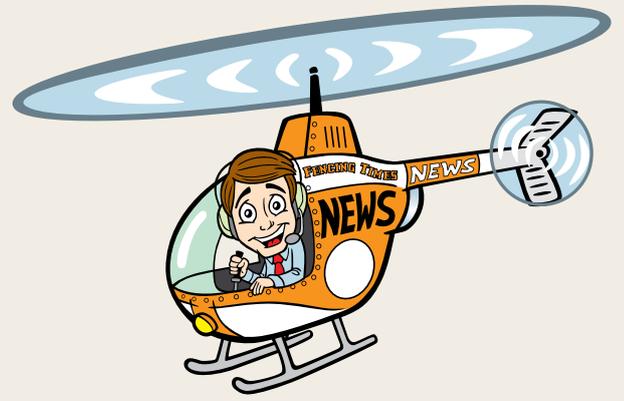


Do you understand the design requirements to deliver a safe gate?



Visit www.gate-safe.org for more info / book a space on our distance learning training www.gate-safe.org/training

FENCES IN THE NEWS



Woman paints fence in neon colours to annoy neighbours



Newton County, not far from Atlanta in Georgia, is where Donna Yopp Paul lives. Donna fell out with her neighbours years ago and they cannot stand the sight of one other. At one point, Donna was so fed up with the sight of her neighbours that she wanted a privacy fence at the property's boundary. Never a bad idea of course, since it puts bread on the

table for fencing installers. So Donna called the local county authority and asked how high she was allowed to make her fence. 'Six foot,' was the answer that came back. As a result, Donna built a 1.8-metre high fence on the border with her neighbour's plot. From the back corner and all the way out to the street. But it then transpired that she had

misunderstood the county official on the phone. Or that the official hadn't understood that it involved a piece of the front garden. In Newton County, fences at the front of houses are only allowed to be 4 feet in height. Something her friendly neighbours naturally complained about to the county authority and the latter made Donna shorten the fence. You

could never guess what happened then: Donna was so incensed at her neighbours that she went to the hardware store for the brightest neon colours she could find, for painting the new fence. "According to the factory, this paint will keep its colour for 15 years," she told the local news channel. "If the neighbours haven't gone by that time, I'll paint the fence again." ■

Bangladesh building tiger fence



Bangladesh is home to the Sunderbans. This is the world's biggest mangrove forest. It lies on the delta of the Ganges. The area is named after the sundar trees that grow there. The forest is renowned for its rich fauna, which includes Bengal Tigers as well as many crocodiles and snakes.

The area is exposed to a number of threats. The damming of rivers upstream has led to less and less fresh water reaching the Sunderbans, causing parts of the area to dry up or become saline. At the same time, the local population is increasing. This population depends on the forest for its living and is felling timber there to make room for arable and livestock farming. Large sections of the Sunderbans are also drying up as the rivers and canals flowing into them are becoming filled with sediment.

All these factors are combining to give both tigers and humans access to parts of the mangrove forest which they couldn't previously access. This is leading to an increasing number of conflicts between tigers and people. People go into the forest to look for fruits or to graze buffaloes. Conversely, tigers also come to the villages because the livestock kept there in corrals or fenced pastures is easy prey. A conflict between a person and a tiger is nearly always fatal. Either the population kills the tiger out of fear if it is detected in the village, or the tiger is faster and kills one or more villagers. No one is too concerned about the villagers there (apparently there are plenty of them (oh dear, what are we saying)), but the tigers are under serious threat of extinction. In 2003 the tigers numbered 440 but only 114 were left by 2018.

The authorities in Bangladesh have therefore decided to get fences installed in the Sunderbans to keep tigers and humans apart from each other from now on. The measure is part of the three-year Sunderbans Tiger Conservation Project of the Bangladesh Forest Department. The fences comprise bamboo poles with tensioned nylon netting in between. On the face of it, this doesn't strike us as a very solid solution but it has already been tested out on the Indian side of the border with good results (the Sunderbans is partly in India).

So if you're up for an adventure and fancy the idea of erecting fences in the mangrove forests among the crocodiles, snakes and tigers, send in your application to a Bengal fencing installer. Initially, it's about 60 kilometres, so it should keep you busy for a while. ■

Fire brigade members in training to become fencing installers

In Celle, a small town near Hanover, Germany, members of the local fire brigade were forced to play fencing installer in May. A hedgehog had got itself entangled in the mesh of a wire panel (a U-mesh panel by Adronit, for the experts among us), whereupon a concerned resident alerted the emergency services. Both the Polizei and the Feuerwehr attended the scene. Usually, when the fire brigade is called in somewhere, it's because heavy equipment is needed. Petrol-driven grinding machinery with a half-metre blade, pneumatic shears and all that kind of stuff. Nothing will be left of the fence when these kind of tools are used. But in this case, the fire brigade

opted for a minimalist approach. By using the smallest battery-operated grinder from their toolbox to dismantle a cover strip and pulling the wire panel forward, the hedgehog was freed. The fire brigade then put the panel back in position and screwed the cover strip back on (expertly, according to the press release). Thus, the fence miraculously survived this operation with not even a scratch visible afterwards. So, fencers from the Celle region who are still looking for fitters take note: you can find additional professionals at the local fire brigade. Oh yes, and the hedgehog is also doing well: his rescuers took him to a forest and released him there. ■



World's longest fence affecting evolution of kangaroos



The world's longest and most famous fence is in Australia. It's called Dingo Fence. At more than 5,000 kilometres long, it was built from around 1860 by sheep farmers, who wanted to protect their sheep from dingoes, a wild dog species. But the fence doesn't just keep dogs and sheep apart: it's also dividing the kangaroos into different species. Or more to the point: after 150 years of dividing the land in two, the fence is now creating a new

kangaroo species. In June of this year, a study was published showing that the young of the Red Kangaroo (*Osphranter rufus*, for the clever among us) on one side of the fence are much larger than their similarly aged counterparts on the other side of the fence. It would appear that the dingoes seek out the smallest kangaroos as their prey – and the kangaroos protect themselves from the dingoes by growing big quickly. Or it could

be working in a different way, of course: the fastest-growing kangaroos are the least eaten, so they get to reproduce the most. The slow growers are eaten before they have the chance to reproduce, and die out. Evolution in its purest form.

On the other side of the fence, the kangaroos don't have any enemies, so with no problem there the kangaroos continue to grow just as slowly as before. ■



**The Gas Powered Post Driver from Fast Fencing Systems.
The petrol driver that works every time.**



FAST FENCING SYSTEMS BV
WWW.FASTFENCINGSYSTEMS.COM
CALL ROGER: +31 6 50292988
OR ARNO: +31 6 52330914