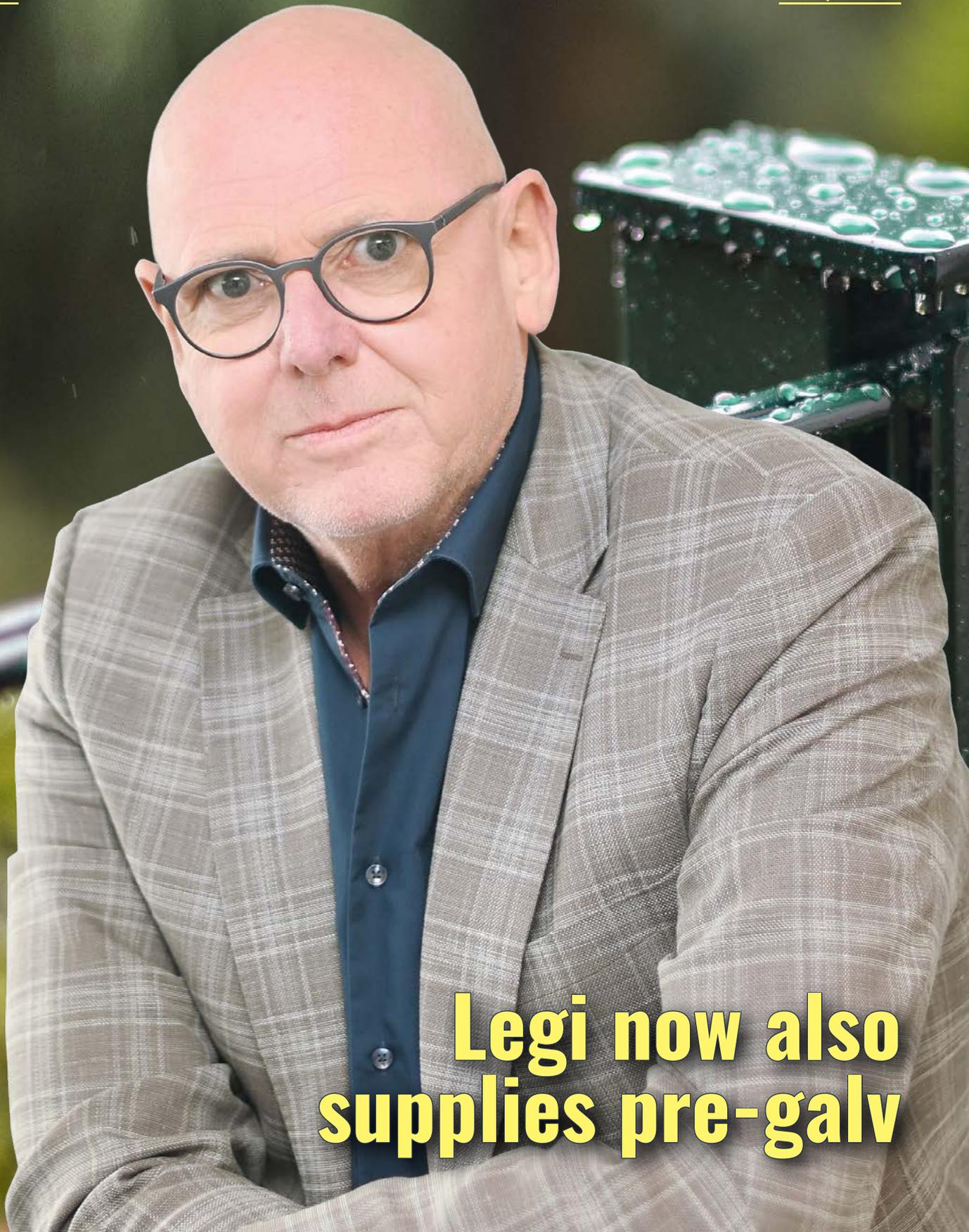


# FENCING TIMES

*XL Edition*

*2023, Issue 6*



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# Fencing Times

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## **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.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE:**

Every fencing business<sup>1</sup> is sent a free copy of each edition. Additional print copies can be ordered for € 12,50 per issue (€ 150 per year). Digital copies are available free of charge and in unlimited quantities, so everyone at your company can read the digital edition without charge.

Are you a fencing installer, but don't receive the Fencing Times? Call or email us and we'll put it right. You can also call or email us to sign up for a digital subscription; we'll be happy to add you to our mailing list.

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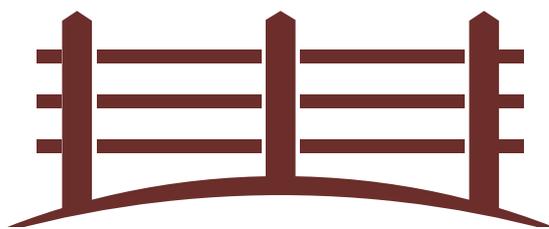
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# Assumption is the mother of all f\*ckups

**O**n my first day at work in the fencing industry, my boss said to me: “Here’s a RAL colour fan. Look after it, because you won’t get just another one at the powder coating workshop. Check the numbers and the names carefully, and every time you have to write down a colour somewhere, write down both the number and the name.”

I got used to doing it back then and since that time I’ve always done it. Does something need to be in RAL 8017? Oh, then that’s Chocolate Brown. People who saw me do it didn’t understand why. Surely that’s twice as much work? Have you got too much time on your hands?”

But it’s really not that much work. It’s usually just one or two words, and it achieves two important things. Number 1, other people’s mistakes come to light earlier. How many times have you had a customer unable to choose between RAL 5010 Gentian Blue and RAL 5011 Steel Blue? He’s not sure, he rings another three times to discuss it and eventually orders 5011, but he actually wanted Gentian Blue. With all his wavering back and forth he’s got the numbers confused.

If you place his order in RAL 5011, he’ll get a colour he doesn’t want. And he certainly couldn’t blame you for that; you supplied exactly what he ordered. But your customer wouldn’t be happy with his fence. And if he somehow managed to order his window frames in Gentian Blue, then he’d end up with two different colours on and around his house. And what would you do then? Uninstall everything, have it recoated and reinstalled and then charge full price for it?

Number 2: you give others the chance to catch your own mistakes for you. If you yourself get confused – because you heard a whole long list of colour numbers during a discussion with a customer – and write RAL 5010 (Steel Blue) on the order at a powder coating workshop, the coater will be on the phone immediately to ask which of the two you mean. If you’d only written 5010, you would have got Gentian Blue.

And then you have to ask yourself: how often does that happen? Nine times out of ten everything will be fine if you write down only the colour number or only the colour name. Maybe even 99 percent of the time. But then that hundredth time you’re very happy that you didn’t have 400 metres coated in Gentian Blue when it should have been Steel Blue. And you don’t even need a RAL colour fan for that these days; at [www.ralcolor.com](http://www.ralcolor.com) and [www.ralcolorchart.com](http://www.ralcolorchart.com) you’ll find a comprehensive overview of all the colours, in six languages.

Besides catching any colour errors in your orders, always writing down both the colour number and the colour name has an underlying advantage that’s actually much more important. Every time you write down a colour twice you’re momentarily reminded that things can go wrong if you don’t double-check them, or if you don’t build in safeguards that ensure that someone else can do their job and be certain that they’re doing the right thing without needing to make any assumptions. Because Murphy’s Law (what can go wrong, will go wrong) doesn’t just apply to colour numbers. It applies to everything. And nine times out of ten something goes wrong because there are several people involved in something, all of whom assume that the others have done or will do their job properly, without being 100 percent sure of it.





This is true of all sorts of things. When you send a colleague on an errand, when you send an order to a supplier, when you give a work order to an installer, when you ask someone to check that an invoice is correct – if you're not extremely clear and specific about what needs to be done and how it needs to be done, then things are guaranteed to go wrong at some point. "Assumption is the mother of all f\*ckups," as Steven Seagal put it in the film *Under Siege 2*. Because everyone does what's logical to them, not what's logical to you. And the two are not always the same.

If a coater receives an order with the number RAL 5011, he'll coat all the materials in that order in Steel Blue. He's not going to call you asking why you're ordering Steel Blue all of a sudden, when you normally always order Gentian Blue if something needs to be blue. There are so many customers who order one particular colour regularly, but now and then order another. And anyway, why would he care? He's covered, because he has an order that says 5011. If it later turns out that it should have been 5010 then he'll just coat the stuff again, right? Then he can send you another invoice.

In that same fencing company where I started out, there was an installer called Johnny. I've written about him before. Johnny was a very reliable and loyal installer, who always did his best and never made mistakes. He did everything you told him to. So if you said to Johnny, "Chuck that ladder on the Iveco for me," then that would be done, no problem.

<sup>1)</sup>With apologies to any coaters reading; we know that there are plenty of good, proactive coaters out there. This was just to give an example.

But then later on you'd also have to say, "Secure the ladder to the Iveco," because otherwise when you were on your way back to the business you'd look in the rearview mirror and see that ladder bouncing across the motorway.

There are plenty of Johnnys in the world, and not just in installation either. They're in the office, and on the management team too. In Johnny's case he was simply incapable. He was unable to remember more than one task at a time. For some other people it's just that they don't want to. They're too lazy or too idle to think proactively. But the vast majority of people, whether you work with them or give them directions or ask favours of them, would have wanted to be proactive but it simply never occurred to them that you might have meant something else.

They really don't do it to annoy you. They're simply doing their jobs, and doing what's logical to them. Or familiar. Or what they always do. And in the meantime they're concerned with their own problems, not yours.

So it means you can avoid a lot of f\*ckups if you think ahead about how another person might interpret an instruction, an order, a message or a task. And every time you write down a colour number twice, you'll be reminded of it. It helps you to internalise discipline, to think ahead in everything you do. ■

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# FENCE POST



## *Alfred @ Focus 4+*

We received this photo of a Mikado, Bamboo or Jungle fence, or whatever you like to call it, from Alfred Berghorst of Focus 4+ Montage, who fitted it on a jetty in Vinkeveen. Good job, Alfred. It's always nice when you get to install somewhere where you can clearly see what a great boat you could buy, as long as you fulfil enough metres in your career. Many thanks for the photo!

[fencepost@fencingtimes.com](mailto:fencepost@fencingtimes.com)

Have you got a tip for us? Or taken part in something great that you want to share with the market? Spotted a beautiful fence or a beautiful gate? Or perhaps a really ugly fence, which you turned into a great photo? Let us know and share it with your colleagues in the sector.

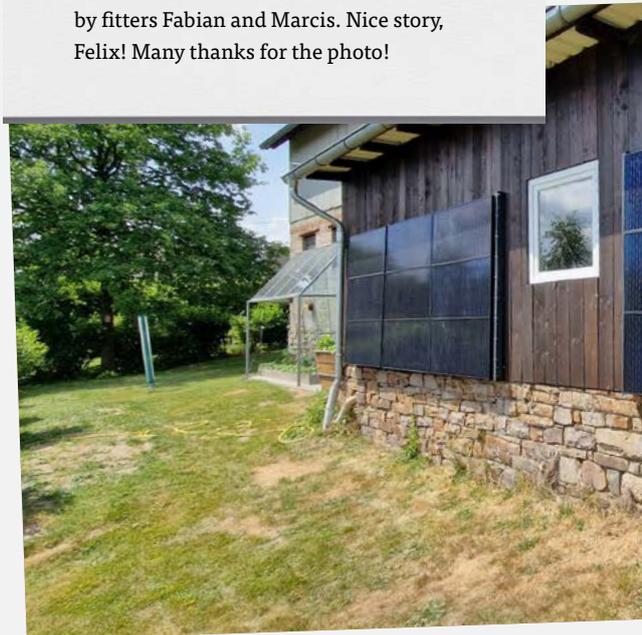


### *Felix @ Zaunteam*

Felix Borgard of Zaunteam Südwestfahlen from Wiehl, east of Cologne, sent us two photos. The first is an unusual wrought-iron gate, which he came across near Cologne. That's a lovely example, Felix, you don't see many like that any more.

### *Felix @ Zaunteam*

Felix sent his second photo in response to an article from a previous issue of our German edition about an attachment system that allows you to add solar panels to a fence. Zaunteam also has a solar fence in its range, which in this customer's case, however, was not set in the ground but fitted to a shed. Completely logical of course – first you add solar panels to a fence and then you fit the complete fence to a shed. But it's not such a stupid idea as it would appear to be. The solar fence in the Zaunteam range is designed and made as a fence. It doesn't have any accessories for mounting the panels directly on a roof or wall. So what to do then, if you're a fencing installer? Rather than sending your customer to someone who supplies roof or wall panels, you install a complete fence on the shed. Especially if it's the hunting cabin of someone you know, who powers his fridge with the solar panels. At least then you can always call on him if you fancy a beer during a walk in the woods. The project was devised and organised by project manager Jens and the fence work on the barn made by fitters Fabian and Marcis. Nice story, Felix! Many thanks for the photo!



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*Andreas @ Rotec*

Andreas Linse from the Rotec fencing business in Berlin came across this gate with matching fencing in Cala Ratjada, a village on the Spanish island of Majorca. Nice fence, nice gate and nice photo. Thanks for sending it in, Andreas!







## *Julien @ Naas*

These photos are courtesy of Julien Sequin from Grillages Naas in Villenave d'Ornon, near Bordeaux. He came across this particular fence at the Hellfest site in Clisson, in the Loire-Atlantique département. We'd never heard of it before, but apparently Hellfest is Europe's biggest Punk and Metal festival. The entrance gate to the festival site comprises a fence with a sheet metal infill on which the craziest images have been carved. As a tribute to artists who have since passed away, several stained-glass windows have also been incorporated into the fence. Great story and great photos, Julien. Thanks for sending it in! The Locinox Construction Radio is coming your way!

Do you too have a nice photo for us? Send it to [fencepost@fencingtimes.com](mailto:fencepost@fencingtimes.com). Every month, Locinox awards one sender with this great Construction Radio.

# Stiff fine for Limerick City Council after fatal accident with sliding gate

**L**imerick City Council in the west of Ireland was fined 75,000 euros in May for being responsible for a death. A court jury found the Council to be liable for a 2015 accident in which a Limerick city street cleaner got trapped between the leaf of the sliding gate at the entrance to the municipal yard and a wall. He died as a result of injuries.

The gate was only secured by a single photocell, on the inside. There were no safety edges and the motor had no power safeguards. Furthermore, it was the habit among colleagues at the yard that the first one to arrive would open the gate using the GSM module, and then place a plank in front of the photocell so that the gate would stay open.

In this case, the court presumed that the street cleaner called the GSM module twice in quick succession. The second time probably by accident from his trouser pocket. As a result, the gate, which had only just started opening, was already closing when the street cleaner bent down in the opening to place the plank in front of the photocell. The gate leaf then crushed him between the closing portal and the concrete wall behind that closing portal.

The leaf continued to crush him until a colleague who arrived 10 minutes later saw what was happening and phoned to open the gate again. Rescuers attempted unsuccessfully to resuscitate the man.

As owner of the municipal yard and employer of the street cleaner, Limerick City Council pleaded guilty to breaching the Safety, Health and Welfare Act and was fined 75,000 euros. ■

Photo: Google Streetview



# Cardin expands its Ultimate Cardin App

**I**talian drive manufacturer Cardin Elettronica, from Codognè to the north of Venice, is expanding its Ultimate Cardin App to include a quotation tool. This will enable installers to offer Cardin products to their customers quickly and easily.

*“Cardin Ultimate is a unique database of all Cardin-related information,” sales manager Fabio Amore says. “There’s a lot of information that comes along with electronic and automation products: specifications, wiring diagrams, compatibility tables, installation manuals, you name it. We wanted to bundle all that information together and make it easy to find, to enable our clients – at every level, from salespeople to installers – to find the tools they need in an intuitive way, whether in sales or installation or after-sales.”*

The products are classified by category and range, with each product page containing photos, descriptions, technical data, and installation diagrams, as well as user and installation manuals, and certificates of conformity. There’s also a list of compatible accessories and products available for each product. *“You can save your favourite products in a special area,” Amore says. “Then they’re available offline too; you don’t have to download them separately. All products can be searched by code, name or keyword, and there’s a selection mode that enables you to display all the available solutions for particular functions.”*

Cardin has now expanded the Ultimate App with the addition of a system to generate PDF quotations. *“Customers can enter all Cardin products, and other items as well,” Amore says. “They’re able to enter notes and other information. After that they can generate a quote with a single click.”* Quotations can include the installer’s company details and logo if required. They can also be saved in an archive, and reopened later for rapid editing.

The Ultimate Cardin App is available for all IOS and Android devices. It is free of charge and available in six languages: Italian, English, French, German, Spanish and Dutch. ■



# Profex expands sales team

**P**rofex Kunststoffe, a manufacturer of plastic, aluminium and wood composite fencing from Uetze, near Hanover in Germany, has expanded its sales team. Since last winter, Günther Meindl has been working there alongside Sascha Runkel and Joachim Wüster.

*"We've seen rapid growth in recent years,"* managing director and co-owner Marcel Aehlig says. *"With more and more new customers, it was getting increasingly difficult for Sascha and Joachim to pay regular visits to everyone. And while we're not really the type of company that pushes its representatives to go for coffee with everyone every week even when there's nothing to discuss, we do launch new products or expansions several times a year and we want to show them to everyone. On top of that, our development department likes to know what's happening in the market, so that we can keep on improving our products and expanding the range with components and types of fencing that are useful to our customers. That's why we brought Günther on board."*

Just like his colleagues, Günther Meindl has a background in the industry. *"That's important to us,"* Aehlig says. *"We need people who know what they're talking about. Some of our colleagues trained in the fencing industry decades ago and have always remained loyal to the industry. That expertise gives us a connection to the fencing installers."* The extra manpower has also allowed Profex to broaden its target area. *"We're also getting more and*

*more requests from neighbouring countries, especially from Switzerland, Austria and the Benelux. With Günther on the team it gives us more capacity to drive around there regularly and build up our customer network."*

Meindl is responsible for southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Sascha Runkel now drives around western Germany and the Benelux, while Joachim Wüster still serves northern and eastern Germany. ■

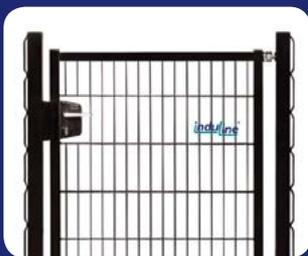
*Profex's sales team: new recruit Günther Meindl (left) with his colleagues Joachim Wüster and Sascha Runkel.*



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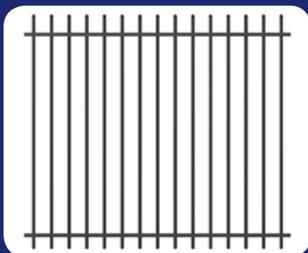
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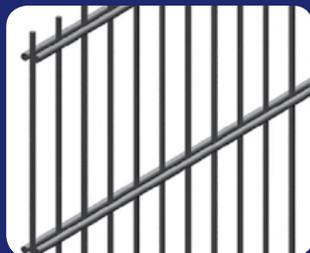
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# Ebbe und Flut extends plastic Steife Briese range to include glass infill

Ebbe und Flut, a manufacturer of Friesian-style fencing based in Sönnebüll in the German district of Nordfriesland, has expanded its plastic fencing range Steife Briese to include various glass fillings.

**“P**rivacy fencing is as popular as ever,” according to managing director and owner Jan Christiansen, “but we’re also seeing increasing demand for variants that offer plenty of privacy but are not completely closed. A combination with glass is ideal for this: glass serves as a windbreak, but you can still see through it. Then with frosted glass you can’t see in, but it does let light through. There are an enormous number of variations, and by using glass panels in the right way you’re able to meet all your customer’s requirements perfectly.”

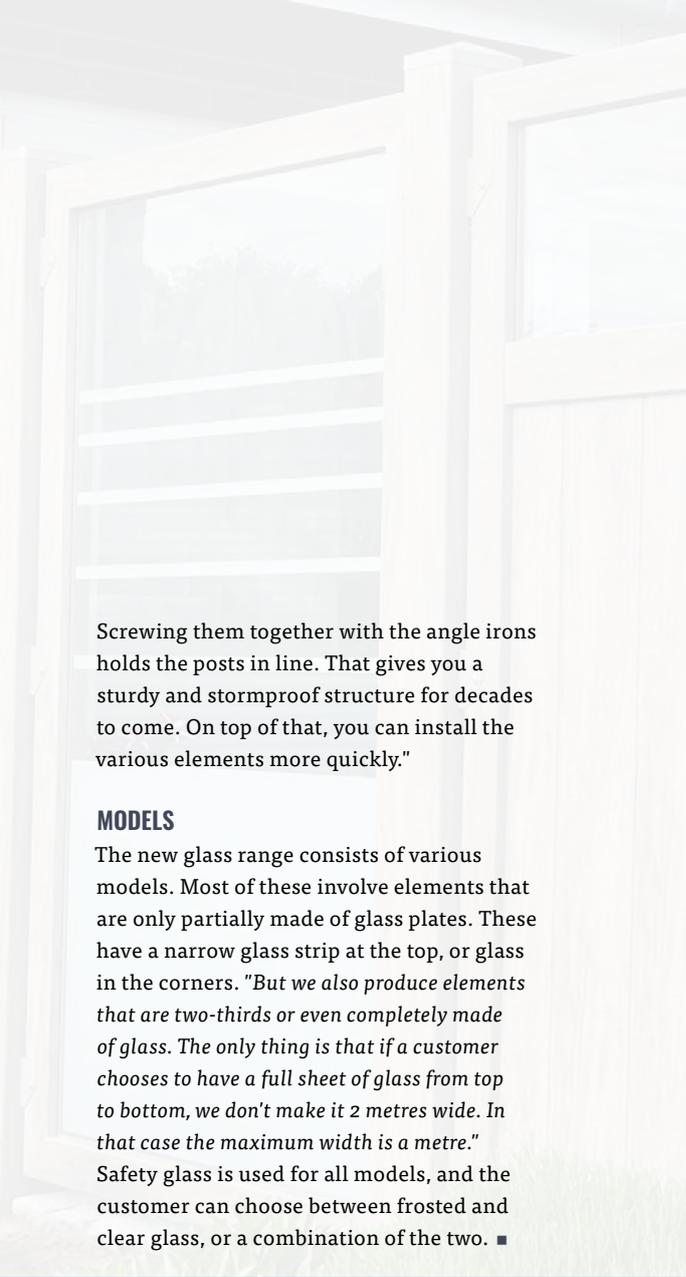
## STEIFE BRIESE

Ebbe und Flut’s ‘Steife Briese’ fencing range is made of PVC, reinforced with aluminium. It can also be coated with foil if required. “It’s among our most popular,” Christiansen says. “Plastic, like WPC, has the advantage of not needing maintenance like wood does, and with the foil you can give it a very natural appearance. But it’s more hard-wearing than WPC, and on top of that it doesn’t warp as much.” All the models in the range consist of panels, which are screwed between the posts with angle irons. “Unlike the slot-in fencing that’s so popular right now, we start by making a frame that we then fill with tongue-and-groove profiles.



Jan Christiansen





Screwing them together with the angle irons holds the posts in line. That gives you a sturdy and stormproof structure for decades to come. On top of that, you can install the various elements more quickly."

### MODELS

The new glass range consists of various models. Most of these involve elements that are only partially made of glass plates. These have a narrow glass strip at the top, or glass in the corners. "But we also produce elements that are two-thirds or even completely made of glass. The only thing is that if a customer chooses to have a full sheet of glass from top to bottom, we don't make it 2 metres wide. In that case the maximum width is a metre." Safety glass is used for all models, and the customer can choose between frosted and clear glass, or a combination of the two. ■



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# AES launches new GSM opener with E-Loop integration

AES Global, an intercom manufacturer from Cookstown, Northern Ireland, has launched a new version of its i-Gate GSM opener. The i-Gate Plus is a combination of the existing i-Gate Prime and i-Gate 1200 and can also operate the E-Loop wireless exit loop.

**“S**ince its launch last year, the E-Loop exit detector has been a big hit for us,” says marketing manager Oliver Boyd. “You no longer have to cut loops in the road surface, you simply screw the E-Loop to the ground. But the E-loop has no software on board, it only opens the gate when it detects a car. A number of customers asked us to provide additional features. That’s why we’ve now created a separate version of our i-Gate GSM opener, with which you can make the E-Loop smarter.”

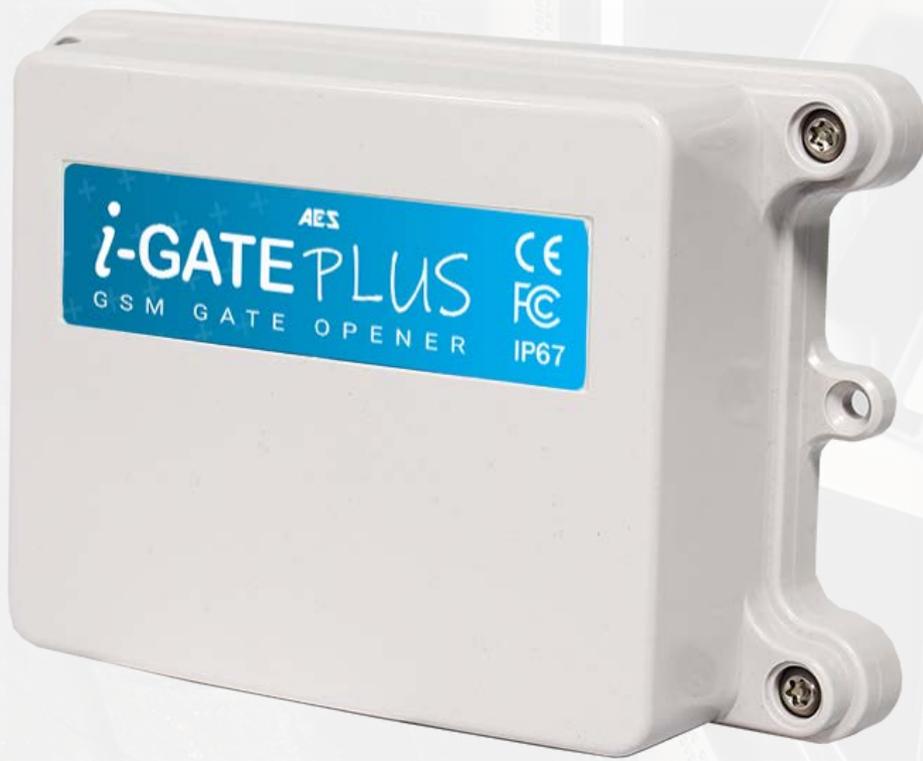
## I-GATE

The i-Gate from AES is a GSM opener. It has a SIM card that you can phone or send an SMS to. If the i-Gate recognises the phone number, it sends an opening signal to the gate controller. There are two versions so far: the i-Gate Prime and the i-Gate 1200. The Prime has 2 relays and enough memory for 250 phone numbers. You can use a single i-Gate Prime to operate both your entrance gate and garage, or the electric opener of a pedestrian entrance. It also has a log function and a weekly clock. The i-Gate 1200 does not have the log function or the weekly clock. It features just one relay. On the plus side though, you can programme 1,200 phone numbers into the memory. You can programme and operate both i-Gates via an app.





Oliver Boyd with the E-Loop and the i-Gate



### I-GATE PLUS

The new i-Gate Plus combines the functions of the Prime and the 1200. Like the 1200, it has only one relay, but you can record 1200 numbers in it and it has the log function and weekly clock. The Plus can also be operated via an app. "And furthermore, you can use it to operate the E-Loop," says Boyd. "That was the whole point. We have a special eTrans plugin for that. You can set it up to send an SMS message when the E-Loop's battery is running low. But the iGate's most important feature is a separate timer specifically for the E-Loop. This can be set up so that the E-loop only opens the gate during opening hours, for example. This will stop an intruder from climbing over the fence at night and driving what he steals to the exit using an on-site forklift. And finally, you can set the time after which the gate should close again if the vehicle does not drive out, but stays on the E-Loop."

### COMBINATION

"Individually, the E-Loop and the I-Gate are compact, useful tools that offer the gate's users a lot of extra convenience," says Boyd. "But together they form the ideal combination. You can use them to offer your customers a wide range of access control features, without immediately putting them to a great deal of expense." For the technically minded: The new i-Gate Plus runs on a 12- or 24-volt power supply, direct or alternating current. The relay can switch 24 volts at 2 ampere, can be normally open or normally closed, and is both triggering and latching. The i-Gate Plus works with all three E-Loop models: With the Domestic, the Commercial and the Commercial In-ground. ■





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# Zaunteamers get-together in Karinthië

Franchise organisation Zaunteam organised its annual forum this summer in Kirchbach, in the southern Austrian state of Carinthia. Some 250 participants from over 60 Franchise companies assembled at the Zaunteam Kärnten-West-Osttirol site during the last weekend of June.

**“W**e try to alternate the venue for our forum between the headquarters in Frauenfeld and one of the branches,” says franchise manager Simon Zumbrunnen. “Last year it was in Frauenfeld, the year before at Zaunteam Weser-Wümme, in Oyten near Bremen. This year, René Posautz from Zaunteam Kärnten-West & Osttirol made his branch available.”



## BASIC TRAINING

For 18 of the participants, the event started on the previous Wednesday, with a two-day basic training for novice installers. "Putting up fences is not something you can learn from a book," says Zumbrunnen. "And even after this course, you still won't be a super-professional; you only reach this level through practical experience. But you will have acquired the basics at Zaunteam. The Zaunteam Academy has been in existence ever since we got established and it's where we teach novice fencing installers the basic principles of the most common fencing types. After that, we keep adding to their training. In practice, with real materials. We took part of the basic training to Austria so that the trainees could combine the training with their participation in the forum and not have to travel twice. Not all of the 18 participants were complete beginners actually. Some of them, for example, had been installing twin wire for years, but also wanted to learn how to install stock fencing, or vice versa." They were joined by the other forum participants from Thursday afternoon and evening onwards.





### WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

Friday kicked off with several workshops and brief training sessions. These were presented in the training rooms of the Leitner Sporthotel in Tröpolach, a village further down the same valley. The training here covered how to quickly make a good estimate and what items to include in it, and how to take good photos of fences and gates for your own marketing. "But we also had some more general courses, such as Office 365 basics or on electromobility," says Zumbrunnen. "Suppliers like Gallagher, Solarzaun, Refix and others also gave workshops about how to sell and/or install their products."

### RALLY

Friday afternoon was marked by a rally. Participants had to complete tasks in and around Kirchbach and answer questions about fencing. Suppliers also took part in this with intercom manufacturer AES Global having a shooting range and bolt supplier Reca Norm organising a bolt-turning challenge. "Unfortunately, we were caught out by an unprecedented downpour here," says Zumbrunnen. "At the last minute with everyone pulling together we managed to rearrange the entire schedule and organise venues so that we could still carry out as many of the activities as possible, but indoors. In the end, the afternoon still proved to be highly successful."



## RELAXATION

In accordance with tradition, the Friday was rounded off with a party in the evening. In and around the Dreschhütte, an event venue in the neighbouring village of Trefsdorf, people barbecued and partied throughout the evening. There was also music: first from the local Trachtenkapelle Alpenrose Waidegg and then from a live band. After a lay-in on Saturday morning, another long hike through the mountains followed. Along the way you could summer toboggan if you wanted to or have a go on the giant swing: a swing suspended from a viaduct that extends for dozens of metres on either side.

*"It was a very successful event for us," Zumbrunnen reflects. "A lot was learned, but to the accompaniment of lots of laughter and both are really important for team spirit. From the beginning, that has been our key argument for winning over franchisees. Fencing installers who operate under the Zaunteam banner are never alone. A lot of support is provided from head office, and if they can't help you, there's always one of the other franchisees who will have encountered the same problem before. The event showcased exactly what we stand for." ■*





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# Elka presents new sliding gate drive with frequency converter

North German drive manufacturer Elka is adding two new sliding gate drives to its range. The new EST-FU 1500 and EST-FU 3000 have a frequency converter for smooth and even operation, can move gate leaves of up to 1500 or 3000 kilos, and are designed for industrial applications.

**“W**e wanted to create a high-end drive that not only looks chic, but combines the best features as well,” R&D chief Oliver Nave says. “We’ve put all of our 40 years of experience into it, using the latest and best technology. The result is two drives that are unequalled on the market.”

## FREQUENCY CONVERTER

“The frequency converter played an important role in development,” Nave goes on. “By adjusting the frequency, we can control the motor’s speed on a continuous scale. It means that the gate operates perfectly smoothly, and at the same time conserves energy. We help the gate to get going at startup with the built-in boost function, which briefly allows the motor to produce more power.” Elka has built in a so-called Power Factor Correction to compensate for any voltage lost due to long cable lengths. “In the frequency converter this is done by powering a separate circuit with active power-factor correction. From a mains voltage of 200 volts, the intermediate voltage is ‘pumped up’, so to speak, to make the maximum power available to the drive.”







## GEAR

"We also came up with something special to simplify adjusting the gear during installation," Nave says. "As you manually push the gate along its entire path, so-called limit indicators indicate the height differences. This is enabled by built-in gas springs, which press the gear against the gear rack during this step. You're then able to directly read off the optimum height setting for the gear rack. You can also see at a glance whether the gear teeth and the gear rack are properly engaged throughout the entire movement. This avoids unnecessary wear due to a lack of grip. The height of the gear rack can be adjusted by 100 millimetres, and you can add another 90 millimetres to this with an optional fixing."

## POSITION

With the new EST-FU drives, the gate's exact position is saved in the event of power failure, manual operation or emergency release. In order to do this, an absolute encoder learns the position during the first run over the entire distance, including the end positions and any part-openings that may occur. "There's no need for limit switches," Nave says, "but they can be built in as an extra option."

Oliver  
Nave



## CONTROLS

The drive control with frequency converter was built especially for this range and is optimised for the drives. "All settings can easily be adjusted using the backlit graphic display with a four-language text menu," Nave goes on. "The contact strip resistance values, evaluations of the safety features and status changes are clearly displayed." The control system includes an integrated loop detector, six programmable multi relays (two changeover contacts, four Normally Open contacts) and safety-related inputs (PLC) for safety devices. "Monitoring is made easier thanks to four separate contact profile evaluations for the main and secondary closing edges' OPEN and CLOSED movement directions. The resistance values for each range are displayed separately, so you have a rapid overview of the existing signals. In combination with appropriate safety contact strips, the forces are maintained in line with EN 12453 using electronic speed control and adjustable braking curves. For the photocells, the control system includes a test function for monitoring the front and back chambers so there's no need for the six-monthly photocell check. A fire alarm system can be connected via a separate input (Normally Closed contact)."



## HOUSING

The powder-coated aluminium housing for the new drives features integrated holders for safety contact strips. "We've made the housing as comfortable as possible," Nave says. "It has enough space inside for additional features, such as a network connection or customer-specific devices or accessories." The door of the housing is secured with a pivoting lever lock, into which the customer can install their own profile half cylinder.



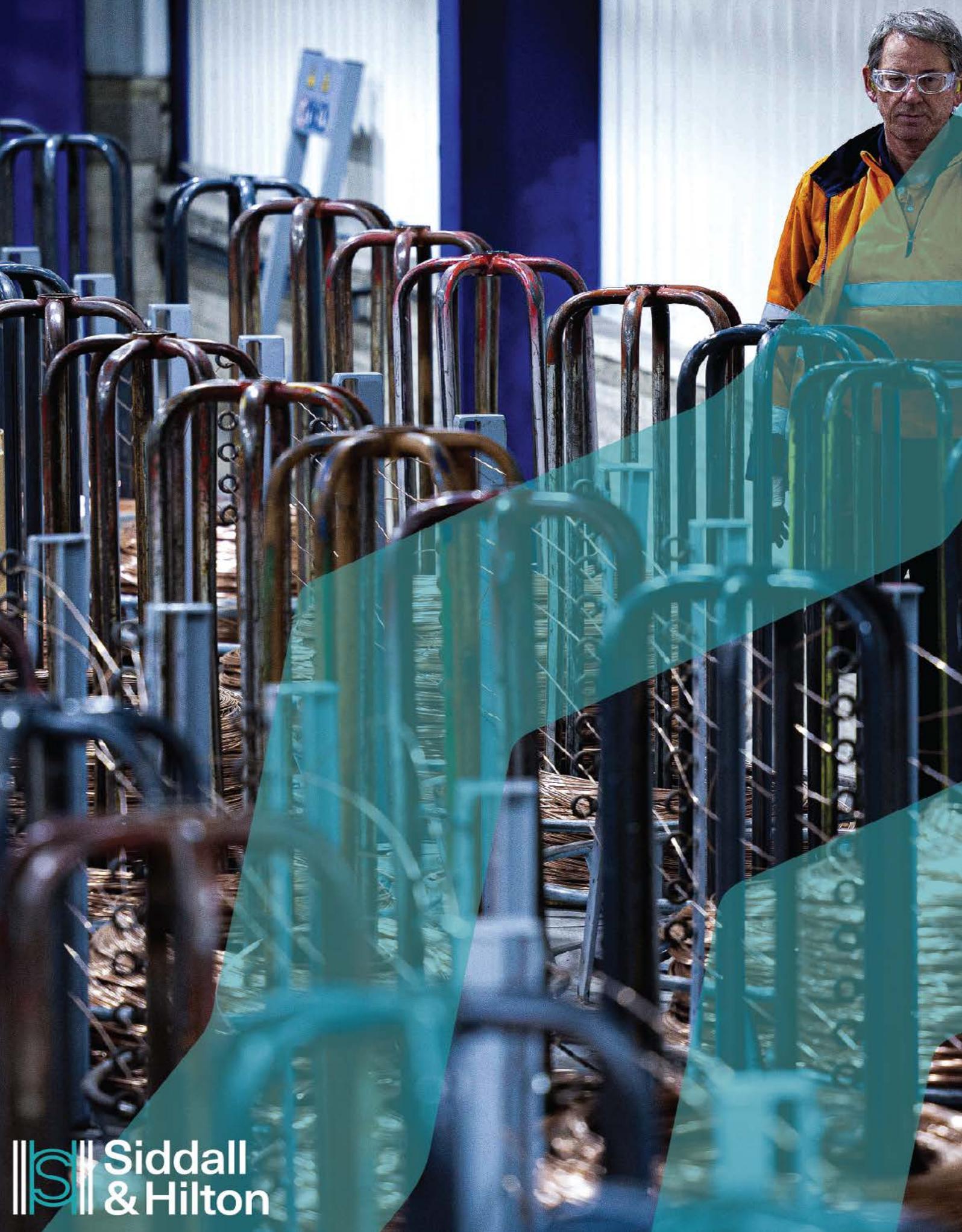
## PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

"We've built up a lot of experience in the company's 40-plus years," Nave concludes, "and it's been put to good use in developing this sliding gate drive. The result is a product that meets Elka's strict quality standards, and provides the customer with added value in terms of durability and reliability. It's also future-proof, particularly with regard to connectivity. We're working to integrate the controls into our Econ app in the coming months. This will make installation even easier." For customers who want to build the new drives into their own guide or drive pillars, the EST-FU drives can also be purchased as separate units (without housing). For standards-compliant gates from the range, Elka assists with certification. The new drives are suitable for gates with passage widths of up to 30 metres. ■



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# Deutsche Zauntechnik expands lighting range

Deutsche Zauntechnik, a brand of German company AOS-Stahl from Wetter in the Ruhr region, is expanding its lighting range. The company has taken on the distribution in Germany of Zquare's illuminated post caps. It also supplies LED strips from Lyghtup.



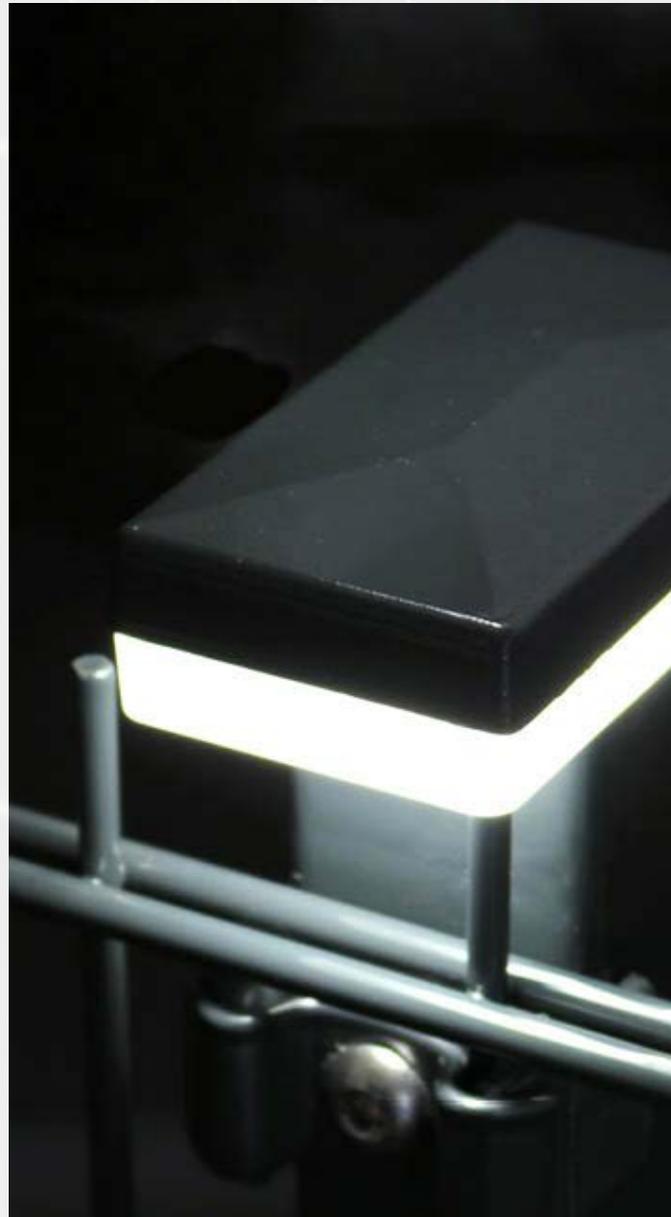
**“T**he idea of combining garden lighting with the fence is not new,” says sales director Samuel Adolph. “But for years it was a trend that had yet to break through. But we can now see that it is finally happening. Not only around gardens, but also in car parks or along footpaths. Light provides safety, whether it’s to see intruders coming, or to ensure the footpath is illuminated. That’s why we wanted to be able to supply a wide range of lighting.”

#### **ZQUARE**

Part of that range includes Zquare’s post caps. Deutsche Zauntechnik is now the German distributor for these. Zquare caps comprise LEDs moulded into a flat layer of transparent plastic. An aluminium cap is then mounted on top of this, so that the light only shines to the side and downwards. “Zquare’s caps are ideal,” says Adolph. “You can click them onto any fence post, or you can fit them as stand-alone on small posts located wherever you like in the garden. There are caps for gate posts and for gabions. This means that all the customer’s outdoor lighting is matching. In addition, they interface with Alexa, Google and Siri.”





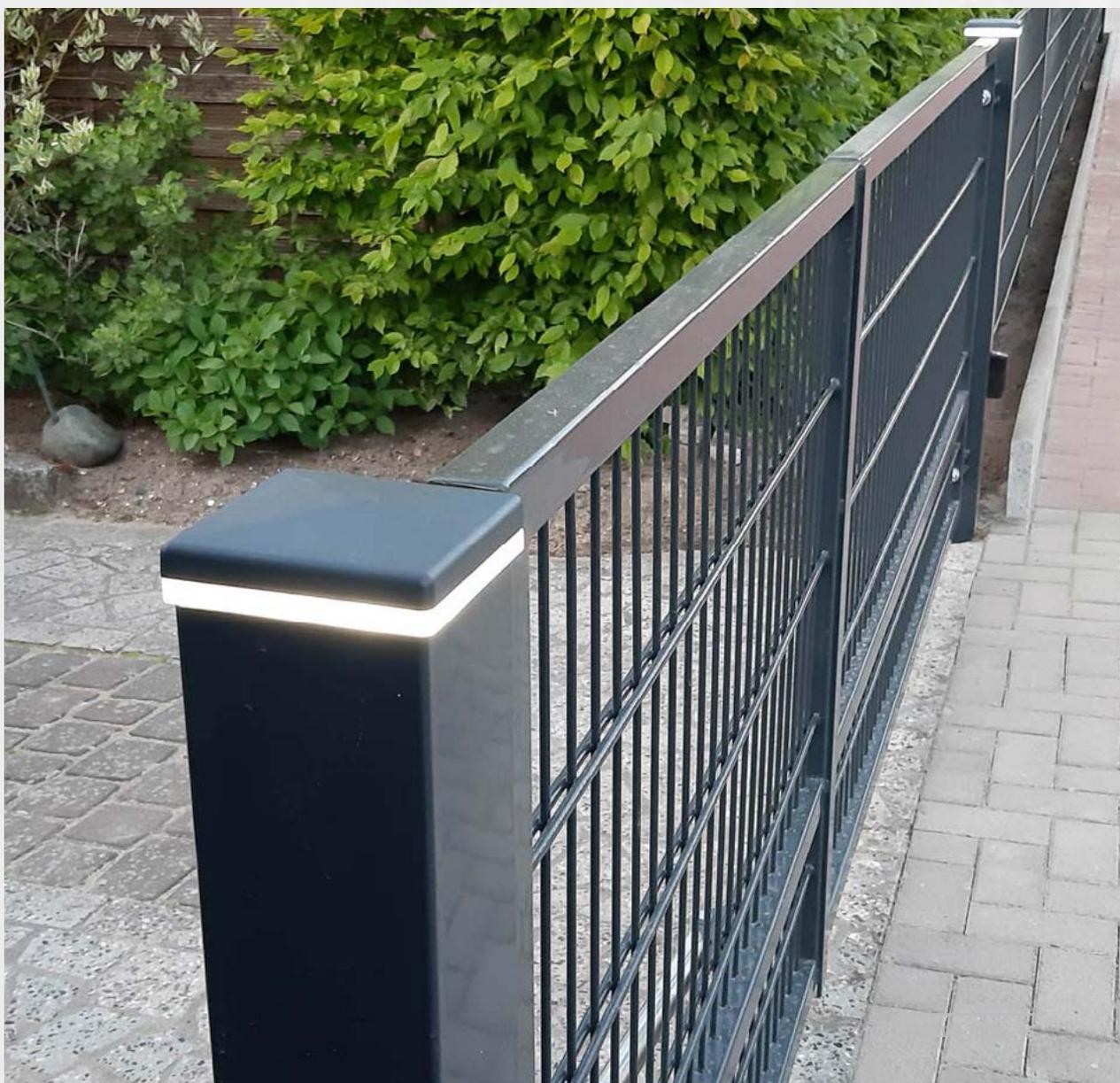


## DISTRIBUTION

The Zsquare caps were developed three years ago by Vastian Henry, who makes them with his company ZN Systems. *"We started off selling them ourselves,"* says Henry. *"But as the volume began to increase, we felt we were more developers than sellers. We would have had to set up an entire sales system complete with sales personnel, catalogue and all the rest. Deutsche Zauntechnik already has all of that, plus a large network of fencing contractors throughout Germany. That's why we handed over distribution to AOS. It allows us to stay fully focused on development."*

## RANGE

In addition to Zsquare, AOS also supplies the Lyghtup range. Lyghtup comprises an aluminium profile with LED strips, which can be clicked onto the horizontal wire of a twin wire panel. The light then shines along the panel downwards. *"This produces a nice effect, especially with gabions or planted panels,"* says Samuel Adolph. *"A lot of strips are sold for use with fences or gabions around terraces. Fence lighting is a simple and effective way of enhancing your client's outdoor space and creating a welcoming atmosphere. It's an opportunity for fencing installers to expand their range and generate additional sales from the same clients."* ■





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# Balu presents the Pure sliding gate

Balu, a sliding gate supplier from Neuenhaus, near Nordhorn in northern Germany, has released a new range of gates. The Pure gates are strong, fast, and affordably priced.

**“**Our Premium gate is a big success,” managing director Christofer Schnöing says. *“But we don’t want to rest on our laurels, and we started looking for a sliding gate that would enable us to offer customers an alternative for a lot of standard situations. That’s why we launched the Balu Pure.”*



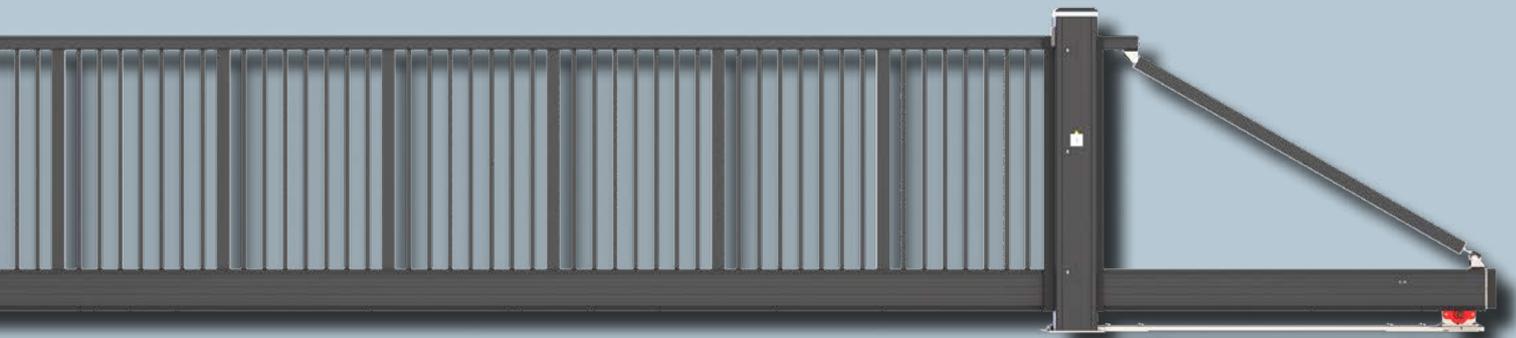
## PURE

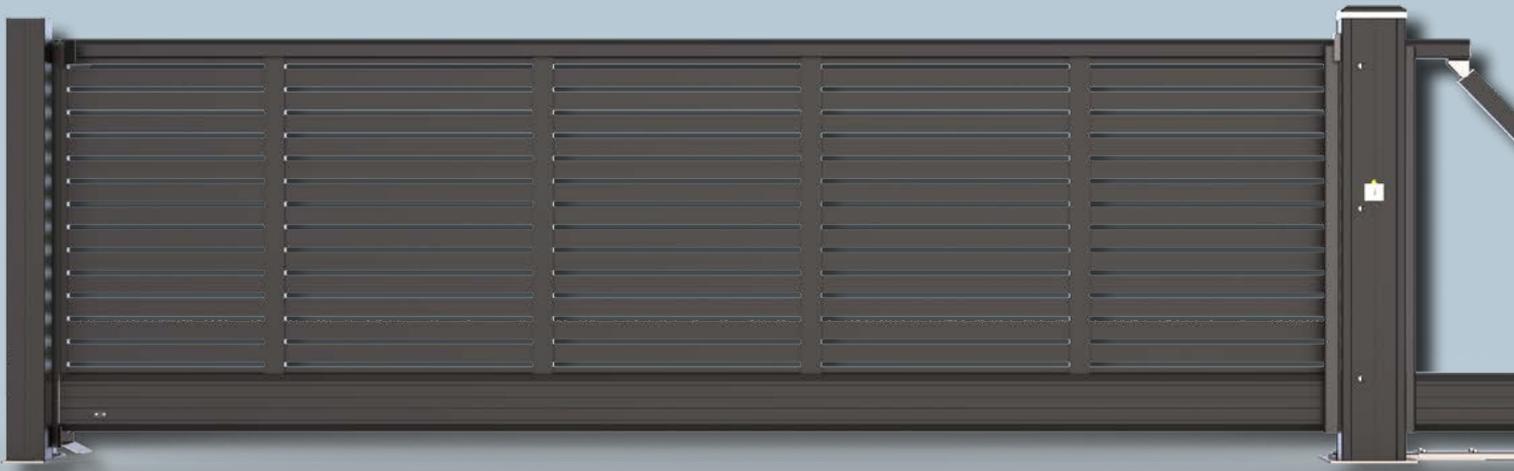
Schnöing says that the new Balu Pure range of gates features extremely stable aluminium sliding and swing gates. "The Pure is – as the name suggests – a range of gates with a basic no-frills design that does exactly what it's meant to. All connections between the various aluminium profiles are screwed in. The modern and stable construction means that the gates are still extremely rigid. The Pure sliding gate has even been designed as standard for use in areas with Wind Class 3. The test gate has now completed more than 280,000 cycles and is still running 1250 cycles a day with the drive that has a speed of 50 centimetres per second. This test gate operates under real conditions out in the open in Europe's windiest region, and has been doing so for more than a year."

## PRODUCTION

The new Balu Pure is produced by a Dutch partner of the company. "They produce the gate leaves and the posts in an optimised production system," Schnöing says. "Passage widths can be selected in half-metre increments. There are various standard infills in a range of standard colours. It keeps costs low and delivery times short." From the Netherlands, the leaves and portals are transported by truck to Neuenhaus for final assembly. "Here in Neuenhaus we install the leaves on the guideposts, and we connect all the electronics for plug-and-play assembly as well as any options that may have been selected. Then we do a test run. After that the gate is transported to the customer on a pallet. Thanks to an extremely stable base plate, the sliding gate can be installed more quickly and it means that even uneven foundations won't affect the smooth operation of the gate. This gate is so stable and convincing that we're happy to give it a 2-year on-site warranty, which is uncommon in the market."







## DRIVE

In the Balu Pure swing gate, the drive is installed in the gate frame so isn't visible from the outside. The drive for the sliding gate is installed in the guide pillar. Three different motors are available with the sliding gate:

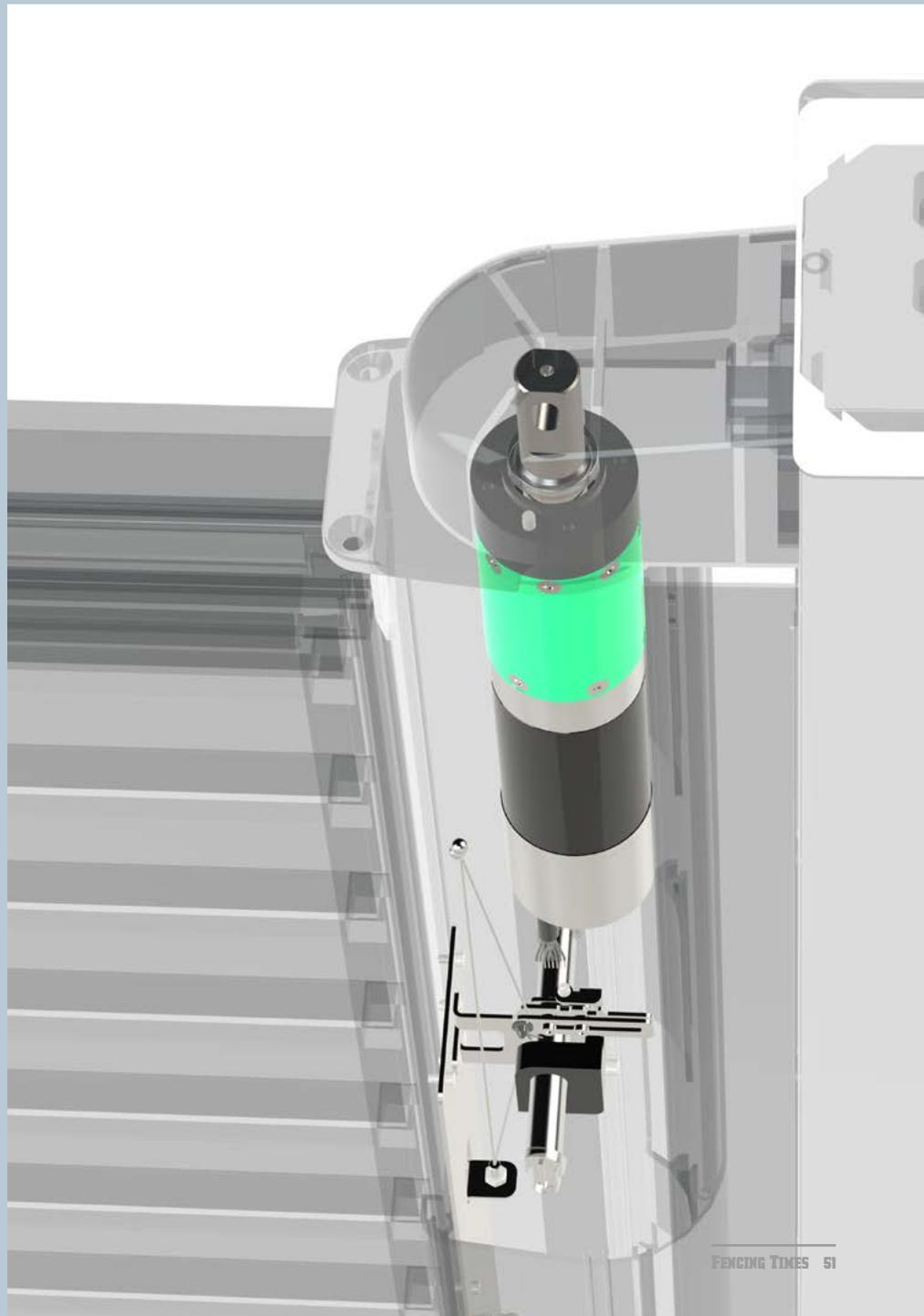
The standard version opens the gate at a speed of 18 centimetres per second.

Versions that open at 25 and 50 centimetres per second are available for an additional cost. The Balu Pure sliding gate

is equipped with a double photocell, safety contact strips, a key switch, and a flashing light that includes a Coming Home function as standard: the orange flashing light automatically switches to a white light as soon as the gate stops.

## SPECIFICATIONS

With the Balu Pure, customers have a choice of various door infills: round bars, pierced bars, rectangular bars, smooth sheet steel, slats, or twin wire panels. The version with bars between the top and bottom rails has an optional shark tooth top to prevent intruders climbing over. The sliding gate can be ordered with passage widths from 3 to 10 metres in half-metre increments, and in heights from 1 to 2.5 metres. The Pure gate is available in four standard colours, but can also be coated in the colour of your choice. Schnöing: *"We deliberately chose a fine-textured coating for the gates as standard, as this gives an even more high-quality appearance. In addition, the coating is applied to one of the highest standards, Qualicoat, with Seaside pre-treatment."* Starting from the second half of the year the Balu Pure, which was presented to a wider audience for the first time at Perimeter Protection, can also be put together using the configurator on Balu's website. *"We're currently working on this intensively, because it has been available for the Premium gate since January and has had a very positive reception from our customers."* Balu will organise several factory tours in the production facility before the end of the year. The Pure port has been available since this spring. ■



# Legi expands range with pre-galvanised steel fencing

Legi, a fencing manufacturer from Moers (near Duisburg) in Germany, is expanding its range of rigid mesh fencing with panels and posts made of pre-galvanised steel. Both the overlapping panels – for which the company is known – and the posts are now also available in pre-galvanised versions.

**“B**efore now, we hot dip galvanised our mesh panels and posts individually after production by immersing them in a zinc bath,” commercial director Jürgen Böhm says. “It gives them a longer lifespan, but it’s also more expensive. Demand for mesh panels – and fencing in general – with such a long lifespan has been declining for 15 years now. For that reason, we’ve now included mesh panels with pre-galvanised wire and posts made of Sendzimir steel strip in our range. These are more in keeping with a large portion of market demand.”

Jürgen Böhm





### MAJOR STEP

"It's a major step for us," Böhm admits right away. "Since Hans Lechtenböhm invented and launched twin-wire mesh in 1964, our company has always stood for the highest possible quality. Especially in the early years, we were able to extend the lifespan more and more because increasingly better surface treatment techniques were developed. Experiencing that process in reverse now is quite a challenge, but at the same time we don't want to ignore the trend in the market any longer."

### STRONG AND FAST

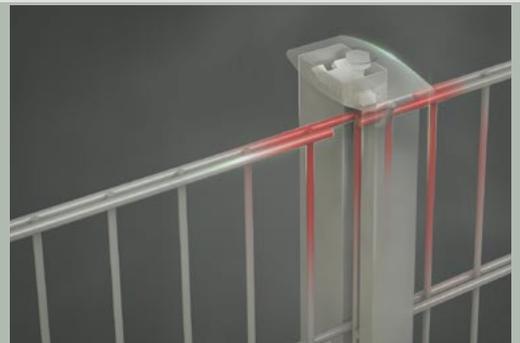
"In addition to our long lifespan, we're known for two other important and unique properties," Böhm goes on. "Our overlapping mesh panels [see box] make a fence extremely strong, especially if you combine them with the posts with which we tested them as a system. It's almost impossible to break the panels out of the posts with a crowbar, and pulling a single panel out of the fence with an all-terrain vehicle is much more difficult than with other fencing types. At the same time, you can install the overlapping Legi panels super-fast. The first one is a good selling point for convincing customers, while the second means that you can make more margin in installation. These are arguments that can help our customers (and therefore ourselves as well) to bring in more orders, if the high price of hot dip galvanising is no longer a barrier."





## *Legi Type R-fit*

In Legi's overlapping twin-wire panels, the last vertical wires in the panels are not installed next to each other but instead overlap on the post. You could compare it (roughly) to pieces of track from a model train set. This makes for a strong connection, which Legi says can withstand a tensile force twenty five times stronger than standard systems. Someone who wants to break a panel out of a fence now has to attack not only the fixing points on the post, but also all welding points on the last vertical wire.



## PRECONCEPTION

*"At the same time, it's a good opportunity to once and for all do away with the preconception that Legi is always expensive," Böhm says. "Unlike standard suppliers, who mainly deal in components, our focus has always been on complete systems. And especially now that we can use pre-galvanised material, we once again have those systems in every price range. With our range, installers can serve any customer with any budget, whatever their technical or quality requirements might be. That has always been our great strength, and we will continue to build on it in the future. It's what makes us incomparable and unique."*



## RANGE

In Legi's current range of rigid mesh panels, the focus is now on overlapping panels in light and heavy versions (8-6-8 and 6-5-6). These options have been available since this summer in both a hot-dipped piece-galvanised version in line with ISO 1461, and a variant welded from pre-galvanised wire. Legi also has posts with a clamping profile and posts with clamping plates, both of which are available in both Sendzimir and hot-dip galvanised versions. The twin wire panel made of pre-galv wire and the posts made of Sendzimir steel strip can be supplied from stock in fencing heights of 1006, 1206, 1830 and 2030, and in the colours mossy green and anthracite grey. ■

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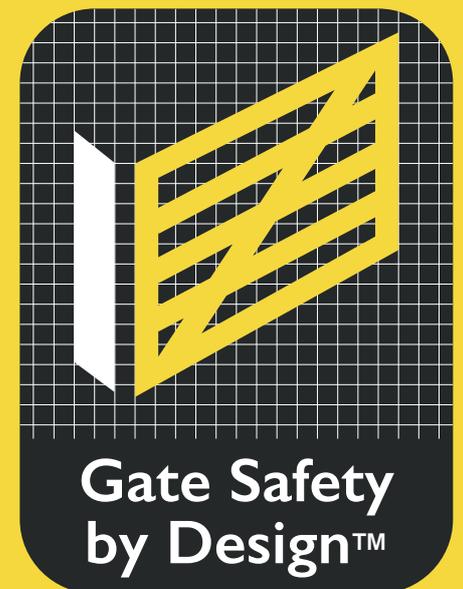
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**I**n addition to being a fencing installer, Livia Graf is a photographer. Whenever her guys finish off a project, she drives to it and takes stunning fencing photos. This is one of them.

# Reducing gaps – reduce the risk

**I**n my previous column, as part of our Gate Safety by Design series, we focused on the importance of end stops to prevent a sliding gate from over travelling. To reiterate: risk assessment is key to rule out any potential safety hazards resulting from an inherently poor design and construction of a gate. Eliminating the safety and construction risks from the gate design in the first instance will make for not only a safer system, that will require less additional safety features fitted on the gate when it is finally commissioned, it will ultimately result in a more cost effective and efficient service for the end customer. An important consideration to ensure a safe installation with swing gates is the need to eliminate any gaps between the post and the hang stile of the gate leaf if there is a reducing gap when the gate is in operation.

Gate Safe is aware of numerous incidents where crushing injuries have occurred as a result of a finger or limb becoming trapped as a gate closes or opens.

There are two ways to eliminate this risk. The best way is to design out the risk of impact and crushing from the beginning, by ensuring that the gap does not reduce when the gate opens (or closes) by virtue of the way the leaves are hung on the posts and the sections used for the leaf and the post. If this cannot be done – for example on a bespoke gate due to the local conditions of the site – there is another option in the guise of finger trap guards. These can easily be fitted onto any swing gate to prevent fingers, hands or arms from accessing the reducing gap at the gate post which ultimately mitigates the risk from the design.

## *Richard Jackson*

For many years, Richard Jackson was responsible for running English fencing business H.S. Jackson & Son. Based in Ashford, Kent, it's one of the largest fencing companies in the UK. In 2010, after separate gate accidents took the lives of two children in quick succession, Richard founded Gate Safe, a charity dedicated to increasing gate safety. In 2012 he handed the reins of Jacksons Fencing to his brother Peter, freeing himself to focus entirely on Gate Safe.

richard@gate-safe.org



**CAUTION**  
**AUTOMATIC GATE**  
DO NOT OPERATE WHEN CLOSED  
Falcon



Clearly Gate Safe would always recommend a safe design from the outset as the preferred option, but if finger trap guards are fitted it is important to ensure they deliver the correct level of protection. Therefore, check that they cover the whole height of the gate. Please also check that the fitting is sufficiently secure and is not at risk of becoming loose following normal operation of the gate. A poorly fitted finger guard may actually result in creating a trap hazard on the gate. Make sure the finger guard protrudes outwards, or all the efforts will be in vain and there is a chance that a finger or hand could still become trapped. Make sure you check that finger traps are still working correctly during all routine maintenance checks.

Talking of maintenance, don't forget to also check the hinges as part of the service visit. If the hinges are fitted behind a finger trap guard, be sure to ensure that they are still of suitable construction and that there is no wear and tear on the hinge pin, eye or bolt which could contribute to causing the gate to fall. ■

# Detection with cables – how exactly does it work?

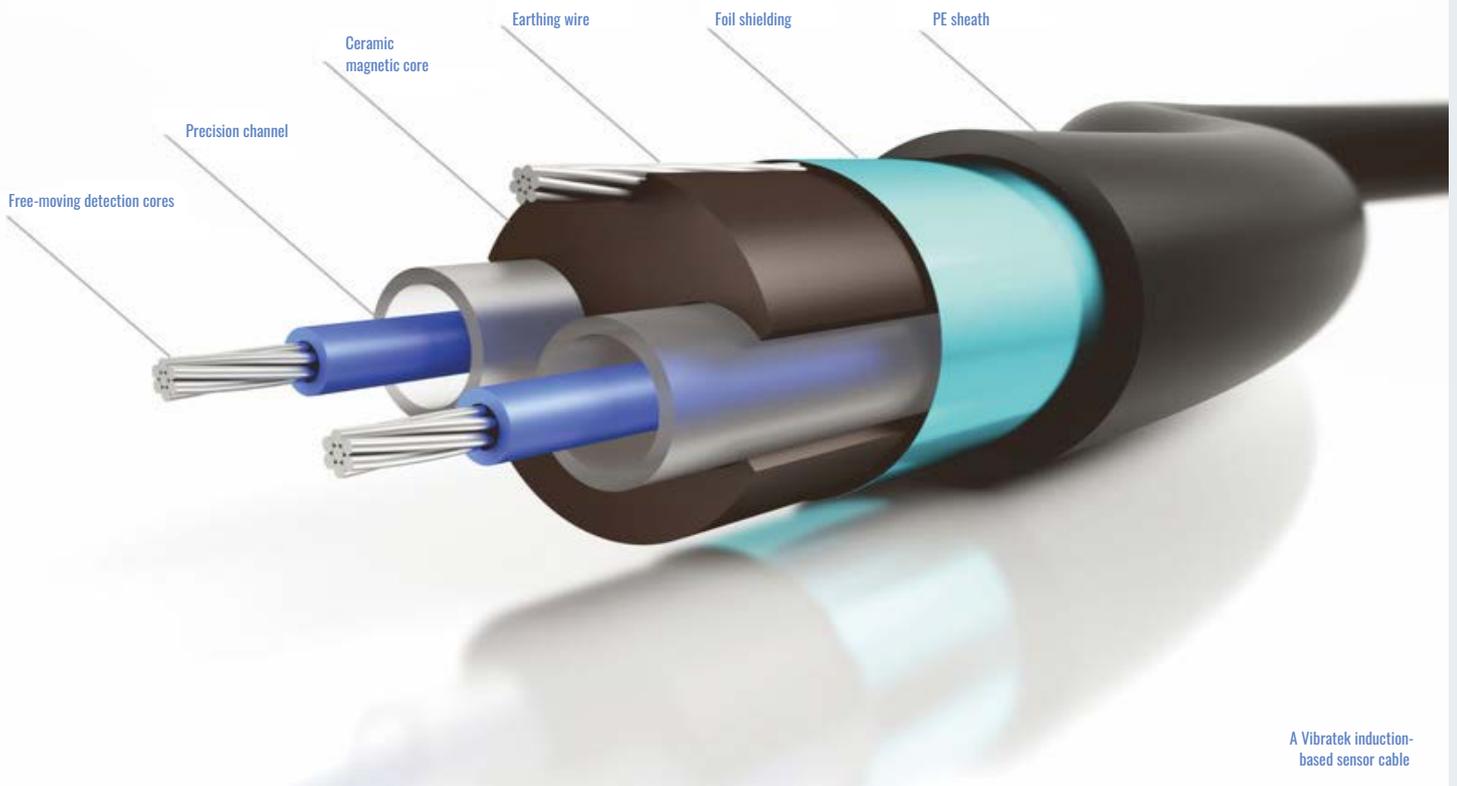
*Everything you need to know about perimeter detection: Assembly and installation of sensor cable systems in detail*



raijmond@fencingtimes.com

## *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 [raijmond@fencingtimes.com](mailto:raijmond@fencingtimes.com)



A Vibratek induction-based sensor cable

**I**n my previous four columns, I gave a rough overview of the most commonly used perimeter detection systems. Now it's time to go into a little more depth. Let's go back to the outer shell: the periphery or perimeter detection systems. These ensure the fastest detection because they are positioned on the fence or the wall – in other words, the periphery of a site or building. These systems follow the material, meaning that you don't lose space on the premises. The most common systems of this type are sensor cable systems. This means that there is a cable that acts as a sensor. This cable is attached to the fence or the wall. As a result, the fence becomes part of the detection system. There are several types of sensor cables available on the market. The most commonly used are the sensor cables with microphone or induction properties. We have also seen increasing numbers of sensor cables based on fibre optic technology in recent years, but I will devote a separate column to these another time.

Let's take a look at microphone cable and induction cable detection. These two terms are often used interchangeably, and manufacturers of these systems are not always 100 percent clear about this either. It is not all that important for their functioning either, because in essence, they both do the same thing. Both cable types can detect any mechanical disturbances that occur to get past the fence. This is because these disturbances cause small distortions and vibrations in the cable, which trigger a small electrical voltage. With the

microphone cable, this is done based on the piezoelectric effect and with the induction cable it is based on the induction effect. Similar to the vibrations of voice sounds that trigger an electric voltage in a real microphone, any attack on the fence will trigger a small electric voltage. This is how climbing, cutting, bending, drilling, chopping, breaking and grinding of the fence are detected. Personally, I have a lot of experience with a microphone cable system. With this system, the cable is supplied in spools of 150 or 300 metres. The system has a detection range of approximately 80 centimetres below and above the cable. The central equipment consists of a small circuit board, to which this cable is connected. This circuit board is housed in a waterproof steel housing and can be installed outdoors. The temperature range of the electronics is between -30 to +70 degrees. This unit requires a supply voltage of 10 to 16 volts DC, and consumes 220 milliamps. The circuit board comes with two inputs for connecting the microphone cable. Let's call these input A and input B. Each input can analyse up to 300 metres of sensor cable. In other words, a maximum of 600 metres of sensor cable can be monitored with each central unit. The central unit also has 8 outputs. These are relay contacts that can switch up to 12 volts and 100 milliamps. They are activated by the following four functions: alarm, pre-alarm, tampering and cable breakage. Given that this applies to cable A and cable B, there are a total of 8 relay outputs. In this way, you will know

what kind of alarm you are dealing with and which cable has caused it. In addition to the microphone cable inputs A and B, there are also 8 separate universal inputs. The latter can be used to connect other detection devices, like a magnetic contact on a port, and to have them 'hitchhike' along the existing alarm output A or B.

Now let's talk about the microphone cable itself. This cable is mounted on the fence. The more contact the sensor cable makes with the fence, the better it will detect. It should not hang loose, because then it could be affected by wind, causing unnecessary movement. The same applies to the fence: the tighter and stiffer it is, the better the signal-to-noise ratio and the lower the risk that the customer has to deal with unnecessary reports. You can easily mount it on a chain link fence, just make sure that the mesh is – and stays – taut. Also make sure the fence does not become overgrown. The sensor cable ends in a terminal resistance, so that the electronics can measure any tampering and cable breakage. The sensor cable can be extended or repaired with special connectors or sleeves.

You could also use these connectors to connect the sensor cable to an insensitive cable. This can be useful if the central equipment is not mounted on the fence, but a few metres away, for example, in a field box. Or if you need to pull the cable underneath a gate. Microphone cables are then connected to RG59 coaxial cables while for induction cables, a standard two-core cable is used.

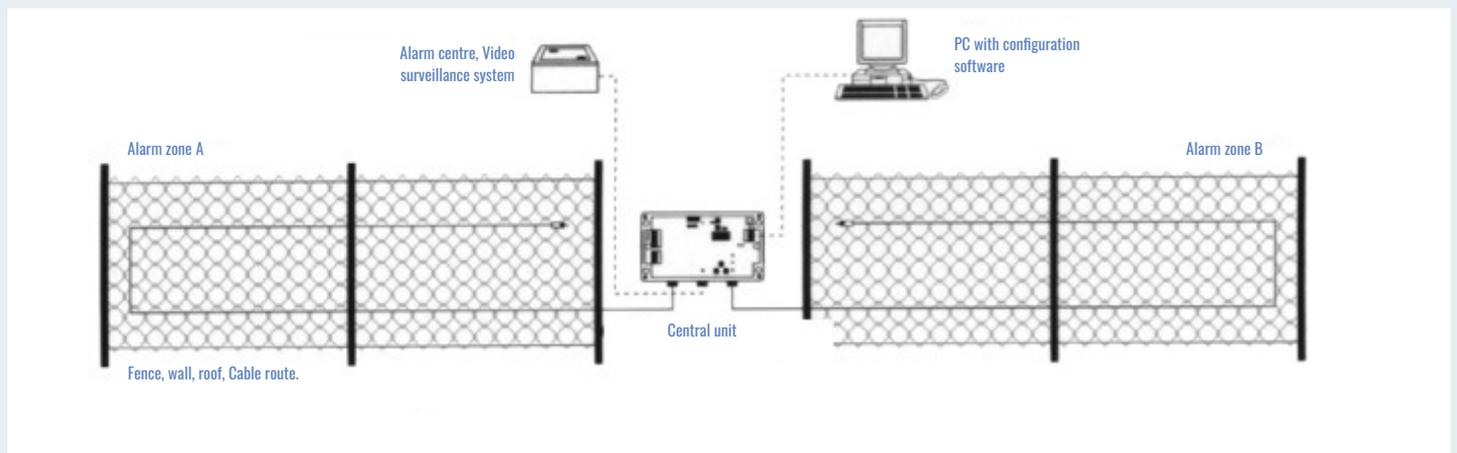
In my example, the central equipment is capable of monitoring up to two inputs of 300 metres of sensor cable, or a total of 600 metres. If you position the central unit 50 metres from the fence – meaning you have to lay two RG59 cables to bridge this distance – you are already using 100 metres of insensitive cable. After all, you need 50 metres for input A and 50 metres for input B. You have to subtract these 100 metres from the 600 metres of sensor cable. This means you can only install a maximum of 500 metres of sensor cable at the fence – 250 metres for input A and 250 metres for input B. If you decide to sneak in 300 metres per side, the total resistance value of the cable is no longer correct, and the

system will malfunction or may become very unstable. So, never exceed the maximum lengths specified by the manufacturer and do not forget to count the metres of insensitive cable.

Since the detection range of the sensor cable is around 80 centimetres above and below the cable when mounted horizontally, you need to divide the fence into three compartments for a fence that is 2.40 metres high. This means you should mount the cable at a height of approximately 80 and 160 centimetres. This ensures that the fence is equally sensitive to attacks across the entire height. With a bar fence, where you can only mount the cables on the upper and lower beam, a cable system is not the best choice because you will have less detection in the middle. Even with twin wire and chain-link fencing people sometimes sneakily mount only one sensor cable to save costs, for example, at a height of 80 centimetres. With just one central unit, they can secure twice as much fencing, with the fence being sensitive up to 1.60 metres high. They reason that climbing intruders will definitely be detected. And with a chain link fence, intruders tend to cut their holes below 1.60 metres and not above.

However, if you want to save your customer money in this way, you need to be aware that a climbing intruder will not be detected if he takes a run-up and jumps up onto the fence above 1.60 metres. A ladder leaning against the fence above 1.60 metres will not be detected either. In other words, for high-risk projects, you will always need two sensor cables.

Of course, this depends on the sensitivity specified by the manufacturer. But in my example, the ideal situation is then as follows: The central unit is mounted on the fence, securing 150 metres of fence of a maximum height of 2.40 metres to the left of it. To this end, 300 metres of sensor cable is used, which is connected to input A. The same goes for the right-hand side of the unit: 300 metres of sensor cable is connected to input B. Each unit can secure 300 metres of perimeter in this way. So, if you want to know how many central units and how many rolls of cable you need for a project, you need to divide the total number of metres into segments of 300 metres.



Unfortunately, most perimeters are not exactly 300, 600 or 900 metres long. In that case, try to achieve a distribution of the central units that is evenly divided across the entire length of the perimeter. In other words: if you are positioning central units for a 700-metre fence, avoid having two that guard 600 metres while the third only guards 100 metres. Ideally, they should each guard 233 metres of fencing. A few metres more or less is not an issue, of course, but it's nice to have a decent distribution of six equally sized alarm zones across the total 700 metres of fencing.

The sensor cable must be mounted securely against or on the fence, as I wrote earlier. Needless to say, you should do this on the inside. Make it as difficult as possible for intruders to get to the sensor cable. The more the cable makes contact with the fence, the better it is, so secure the cable to the fence with tie wraps at 20 to 30 centimetre intervals and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Use tie wraps that are UV resistant and will not dry out. With some double-bar panels, you can run the cable in a wire gutter, as it were, and then secure them with a special clip. This has the additional benefit that intruders cannot burn through the tie wraps with a lighter – which does not cause vibration. Do not mount the sensor cable too tightly around a post, but do this with a nice and generous bend. This avoids the cable breaking if there is too much wind.

It is also important to allow for so-called service loops. Introduce an additional loop every 50 to 75 metre, of around 1 to 2 metres. Secure these loops properly with tie wraps. This will allow you to repair the cable with special connectors in the event of a defect. The service loop lets you slide part of the cable along to do repairs. This may be a time-consuming chore, but without the extra loop repairs would be even harder. You would have to buy an extra cable for a repair and install an extra sleeve. These couplers tend to become a source of interference. They increase the resistance in the cable and are sensitive to moisture. The fewer you have of these, the better. Make sure to reseal them according to the manufacturer's instructions and mount them horizontally if possible. Moisture and electronics are not a good combination; moisture is really the greatest enemy of a stably operating system.

Pretty much all the problems I have come across in my career were related to moisture in the couplings – although not all, to be fair. Once I was called to a project where they were completely unable to stabilise an alarm zone. The system kept indicating a malfunction, even though there was nothing wrong at first glance. The terminating resistor was properly connected and moisture-free, and so was the coupler. The only thing we could do was cut the cable at shorter intervals and then check the cable pieces with the multimeter, looking for a short circuit. We were finally able to trace the problem to a segment of a small 50-metre cable. Two of us checked along the entire length of the cable, feeling with our thumb and forefinger. It took us a few walks, all the way up and down, before we found a tiny spot of damage in

the cable sheath. It turned out to be an animal bite. Some moisture had penetrated the cable, causing the problems. Although this happens rarely, this kind of issue is still a good argument for the twin wire mesh with a special cable tray I mentioned earlier, which optimally protects the cable.

In addition to fences, you can also protect swing gates with the sensor cable. The cable arrives via the gate. Make sure there is a generous cable transition so that the gate can open properly. You will find special reinforced cable transitions on the market to this end. Mount an additional loop on the gate leaf so that you can make repairs here too (or even better, especially here). Use a second cable junction to go back to the fence you came from. Mount a coupler and then switch to an insensitive RG59-cable. Next, run this cable through a conduit under the driveway to the other side of the gate, where it emerges again. With a new connector, the insensitive cable is reconnected to a sensor cable. If you are installing a double swing gate, once again start by mounting a loop on the gate leaf, with two reinforced cable junctions. For a single-leaf gate, just



continue on the fence on the other side of the gate. The gate is now protected as well, and is part of the same alarm zone as the fence.

There is one downside, however. If you build a gate into your system in this way, you end up with a considerable number of connectors in your system. This could become a source of malfunctions in the future. Another disadvantage of including the gate in the alarm zone of the fence is the difference in sensitivity. Each input to the central unit – there are two, I have called them A and B – can be controlled separately when it comes to sensitivity. The system works in a more stable way if you set the sensitivity of the gate differently than the gate. After all, a gate has a different stability. If you make the gate a part of the same alarm zone as the rest of the fence, you have to make concessions regarding the sensitivity. It means you can only take an average, which is not ideal. That's why I recommend assigning an individual alarm zone to gates. This means you have to assign one input of the central unit to a gate entirely, rather than to 150 metres of fencing.

This makes things more expensive, but it's better. Another option is to secure the gate in a completely different way, for example, with a magnetic or vibrating contact and to connect it to one of the universal inputs of the central unit.

Let's clarify this with a calculation example: suppose you have 700 metres of fencing and one gate to secure. With two central units, you can only secure 600 metres, so you will need three, which allows you to use six inputs. First of all, see if you can sacrifice one of these inputs for the gate. In that case, you should divide the 700-metre fence into five 140-metre zones. You will need 280 metres of cable for each zone in that case. The maximum per zone is 300 metres, so that works out nicely. You can even create 20 metres of service loops per zone. This means that a central unit is mounted on or near the fence every 280 metres. Right, so that is the fencing side of the story sorted right there. Now, we need to make sure that the alarms that the central unit detects with the cable arrive at the destination. Next month, you can read all about how that works. ■

A central unit is mounted on the fence here. The closer the unit is to the gate, the less cable you will need and the more the customer can save.



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# FENCES IN THE NEWS



## Hallstatt builds anti-selfie fence



This spring in Hallstatt, a village in the Austrian state of Upper Austria, the municipality built an anti-selfie fence. But why? The town is on Unesco's World Heritage List, with its traditional houses against a dramatic backdrop of mountains, and the clear waters of Lake Hallstatt in the foreground. These bring lots of tourists to Hallstatt, especially from Southeast Asia.

In 2006 the town was featured in a Korean TV programme, and in 2011 a replica of the town was built in Huizhou in China. Hallstatt also served as the inspiration for the village of Arendelle in the Disney film Frozen. Before Covid, millions of people visited Hallstatt every year – although the town itself has just 750 inhabitants. The pandemic meant that things

were a little quieter for a few years, which for many residents was a breath of fresh air that they hadn't experienced in a long time. It meant that when, this year, tourists returned to the town in large numbers, there was plenty of grumbling. So the mayor had an anti-selfie fence built at the village's busiest selfie spot. This, in turn, was disapproved of by the tourists,

who denounced it on social media. Then that was bad for tourism, so the selfie fence didn't stay up for long. Now the mayor wants to put up a banner asking tourists to be considerate of residents' privacy. We already know how much that will help: not at all. But perhaps it will keep the residents quiet until they're used to mass tourism again. ■

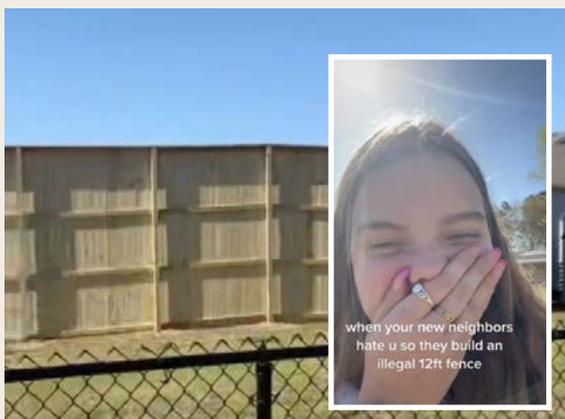
## Malaysian boy impales himself on fence

In the town of Shah Alam, a town in Malaysia, a 12-year-old boy impaled himself on the fence around his parents' house. How he managed it is unknown, but several bars from the ornamental railing fence penetrated his posterior. The fire brigade cut away a piece of the fence, after which the boy was taken to hospital and all. There, doctors removed the fence from his backside. ■



## TikTokker proud of neighbours' high fence

On TikTok, a social media platform where mainly young people post short videos (usually because they want attention), there's a young woman who's very proud of the fact that her neighbours hate her so much that they put a 12-foot (3.6-metre) fence on the property line. Despite not giving any explanation of why she doesn't get along with her neighbours, she immediately gets a lot of support from her followers. Anyway, an American saying goes: Good Fences, Good Neighbours. Perhaps the relationship between the two will improve now that there's a fence. ■



## One dog saves another in San Antonio

In San Antonio, Texas, you'll find the Old Spanish Trails Park. Two stray dogs were enjoying a walk together in that park, until one of them tried to crawl under a fence and ended up getting stuck. The other dog went to find help right away. She ran to the path, where she met former mayor Edward Garza who was also out taking a walk. By barking loudly, running ahead

and looking back, she managed to get Garza to come with her to her friend under the fence. Garza called the animal ambulance and, together with the people from San Antonio's Animal Care Services team, was able to free the poor animal, which was by now exhausted and covered in ant bites. The two dogs were taken to the animal shelter to recover. ■



# Man builds fence through neighbour's swimming pool

This story is another one for the category 'Two neighbours had a fight and you'll never guess what happened next'. Well... what happened next is in the title: one neighbour was so fed up with the other neighbour's house, which was on his land, that he built a fence right through it. Um, what? OK then, not through the actual house, but through the garage and the pool. But it's still quite a story.

What's it all about? In 2003 someone purchased two adjoining lots in Delaney Park, a suburb of Orlando, Florida, and built a house there. But a few years later the financial crisis came along and the man was no longer able to pay his mortgage. Or rather mortgages, because he had financed one lot and the house with a loan from Deutsche Bank, while the other block of land had been financed with a loan from a different bank. Or with a direct loan from the previous owner; that part is not entirely clear.

Anyway: the house and one lot was repossessed by Deutsche Bank and the other lot was repossessed by the previous owner, both of whom were now left with an

unsaleable property. The bank was unable to sell the house, because part of the house was built on land that it did not own and therefore could not sell along with it. The other owner was left with a block of land where the space that remained was too small to build another house on under Orlando's building code, making it virtually worthless.

The parties made offers to each other for the other lot, but not at a price that was tempting enough for either of them to want to sell. Deutsche Bank eventually (in 2019) sold the lot with the house at auction, to someone who wasn't bothered that the garage and swimming pool were not built on their own land. But when that person wanted to move into the house, he found a fence built through its pool and garage, because the owner of the smaller lot wanted to make a point.

In 2020 Orlando City Council's Zoning Commission got involved. After a lot of sighing, the Commission issued a building permit to the owner of the smaller lot, so at least it would be saleable. Whether it has since been sold is not clear. And it's

also not clear whether the owner of the smaller lot has been compensated by the new owner of the other lot for the land that he can no longer use. According to Google Street View, the second lot is now a basketball court. And according to that same Street View, it looks like someone's living in the house and the fence through the swimming pool is gone.

Apparently the owners have come to an agreement. And of course what we want to know is: In what strange places have you had to install a fence? ■



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