Eplan, Rittal and GEC at the SPS 2021

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**New technologies for every stage of industrial value creation**

**Eplan, Rittal and German Edge Cloud (GEC) will be showing the latest technology solutions across the entire industrial value chain at the SPS 2021 automation trade fair in Nuremberg on 23 to 25 November, covering engineering, sourcing, manufacturing and through to operations. The companies of the Friedhelm Loh Group are reacting to the megatrends of digital transformation, as well as to edge and cloud computing. They are presenting new solutions for data-supported optimisation in panel building and switchgear manufacturing and innovations, including the operation of industrial manufacturing plants. Points of focus include the digital twin of engineering and manufacture to the wiring plan pocket and transparency and sovereignty in the use and sharing of data in manufacturing.**

Monheim/Herborn, 25 October 2021 – The global pandemic and political and technological changes are posing enormous challenges for companies in every sector. Industry is undergoing an unprecedented change from the megatrends of digital transformation and edge and cloud computing.

**Making things simple, together**

“Right now, companies are being forced to question the efficiency of their processes and to use completely new solutions – from panel building and switchgear engineering for a variety of markets to the manufacturing industry with increasing, often unused amounts of data in production. These all call for simple solutions and the courage to not only talk about changes but also to achieve them swiftly and concretely,” says Uwe Scharf, Managing Director Business Units and Marketing at Rittal.“Together with our customers, we are establishing the conditions to achieve the increasing goals of digitalisation and productivity.”

Eplan, Rittal and German Edge Cloud will be presenting specific solutions for their customers along the entire value chain on 750 sqm of booth space in Hall 3, Booth 3-133, and in four different stages: Engineering, Sourcing, Manufacturing and Operations.

**Engineering: simply more efficient**

Eplan and Rittal offer high-quality product data, intelligent engineering software, design tools and cloud solutions, as well as value chain consulting to make planning processes in panel building and switchgear engineering much easier and more efficient. Eplan is presenting its Eplan Platform 2022, opening up a new era in engineering with increased efficiency and new user-friendliness. In addition, Eplan is presenting the full version of its eManage for sharing platform projects in a cloud-based, rapid and secure manner with partners, suppliers and clients, and for allowing collaboration across projects and locations with a new and clear added value.

**Sourcing: simply faster**

To simplify and accelerate the selection and procurement of system solutions in enclosure technology, Rittal is offering its customers digitised sourcing processes and tools like the new RiPanel Configurator, the Online Shop and a 24/48 delivery service within Germany. The key to accelerated processes lies in the globally unique, standardised “Rittal – The System.” platform, with enclosure, climate control and power distribution technology. Innovations include the VX SE free-standing enclosures, AX compact enclosures made of plastic, VX25 chillers and the VX25 Ri4Power system for accidental arcing protection (class A and B). Furthermore, Rittal is presenting application-oriented modular components to implement energy storage and charging infrastructure solutions. Customers can now use these to optimise their systems and bring them to market even faster.

**Manufacturing: simply better**

Eplan and Rittal are presenting coordinated products for automated production processes so that decision-makers in panel building and switchgear manufacturing can produce a growing number of product variants of continuously improving quality – more quickly and less expensively. The new RiPanel Processing Center production control system and automation solutions such as the Perforex MT 1101 milling centre, the Wire Terminal WT fully automated wire processing machine and the Smart Wiring digital wiring assistant ensure greater productivity. Services such as commissioning, maintenance operations and machine financing round off the portfolio.

**Operations: simply more secure**

Eplan, Rittal and German Edge offer cloud solutions from panel building and switchgear engineering to industrial manufacturing companies for the “Operations” sector. With Rittal’s ePocket, a cloud-based, digital wiring plan pocket, Eplan and Rittal provide a home for equipment and system documentation, including a digital twin, which now makes paper documentation obsolete. Planning data from enclosures can thus be accessed even faster, and the data is always up-to-date. Moreover, with future tracking options, operators, planners, switchgear manufacturers, and maintenance staff can permanently stay in contact with each other and take part in business in new ways.

German Edge Cloud offers intelligent edge and cloud solutions for maximum transparency and digitalisation benefits in production. By analysing production data, processes can be efficiently controlled and optimised while increasing the OEE (Overall Equipment Effectiveness). The solutions are also data-sovereign and thus secure when networking with other companies via clouds. The Rittal plant in Haiger is proof of the IIoT pioneering work. Furthermore, for example, companies can seamlessly track components even better and faster using Track&Trace solutions from German Edge Cloud.

Based on consistent data, Rittal Service supports its customers in meeting the growing demands for system availability, sustainability and energy efficiency - from enclosure climate control to the secure operation of data centres.

Rittal’s RiMatrix Next Generation offers a future-proof, modular infrastructure solution for data centres of all sizes and requirements as the backbone of all IT applications.

Plastics specialist LKH is a further exhibitor on the stand. The company, which also belongs to the Friedhelm Loh Group, will be presenting its expertise in designing plastic components and functional integration using the example of an ongoing project in the renewable energy sector.

Find out more at:

[www.eplan-software.com/sps](http://www.eplan.com/sps)

[www.rittal.de/sps](http://www.rittal.de/sps)

[www.gec.io](http://www.gec.io)

[www.lkh-kunststoff.de](http://www.lkh-kunststoff.de)

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**Caption(s)**

Image 1 (fri180421410.jpg): With Rittal ePocket, the cloud-based, digital wiring plan pocket, Eplan and Rittal provide a “home” for equipment and system documentation, including a digital twin.

Image 2 (fri21208600.jpg): Uwe Scharf, Managing Director Business Units and Marketing at Rittal."Right now, companies are being forced to question the efficiency of their processes and use entirely new solutions - from control and switchgear engineering for various industrial sectors to the manufacturing industry with increasing, often unused amounts of data in production.“

Image 3 (fri21208700.jpg): Eplan is introducing the full version of its eManage to share Eplan Platform projects with partners, suppliers and clients on a cloud basis, quickly and securely, and to allow cross-project and cross-location collaboration with significant added value.

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**About EPLAN**

EPLAN provides software and service solutions in the fields of electrical, automation and mechatronic engineering. The company develops one of the world’s leading design software solutions for machine and panel builders. EPLAN is also the ideal partner to streamline challenging engineering processes.

Both standardised as well as customised interfaces to ERP and PLM/PDM systems ensure data consistency along the whole value chain. Working with EPLAN means boundless communication across all engineering disciplines. No matter whether small or large enterprises: Customers can apply their expertise more efficiently. Worldwide, EPLAN supports 58,000 customers. EPLAN wants to grow further with customers and partners and pushes integration and automation in engineering forward. “Efficient engineering” is the focus.

EPLAN was founded in 1984 and is part of the owner-operated Friedhelm Loh Group. The group successfully operates 12 production facilities and 94 subsidiaries worldwide. It has approximately 11,600 employees and posted revenues of €2.6 billion in fiscal 2019. In 2021, the family-run business was named one of Germany's leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the 13th year running. A Germany-wide survey by Focus Money magazine named Friedhelm Loh Group as one of the nation’s top companies in terms of vocational training for the fifth year running in 2021.

Further information can be found at:

www.eplan.com and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com

**About Rittal**

Rittal, headquartered in Herborn, Germany, is a leading global provider of solutions for industrial enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure, as well as software and services. Systems made by Rittal are deployed in over 90 per cent of all industries across the world, including machine building and plant engineering, food and beverages, and IT and telecommunications.

The international market leader’s product portfolio includes configurable enclosures, with data available across the entire production process. Smart Rittal cooling systems, with up to 75 per cent lower power and CO2 consumption, can communicate with the production landscape, enabling predictive maintenance and servicing. The offering also includes innovative IT products, from IT racks and modular data centres, to edge and hyperscale computing solutions.

Leading software providers Eplan and Cideon support the value chain, providing interdisciplinary engineering solutions, while Rittal Automation Systems offers solutions for switchgear. Within Germany, Rittal can supply products on demand within 24 hours – with precision, flexibility and efficiency.

Founded in 1961, Rittal is the largest company in the owner-operated Friedhelm Loh Group. The Friedhelm Loh Group is active worldwide, with 12 production sites and 94 international subsidiaries. It has 11,600 employees and posted revenues of €2.6 billion in fiscal 2019. In 2021, the family-run business was named one of Germany's leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the 13th year running. A Germany-wide survey by Focus Money magazine named Friedhelm Loh Group as one of the nation’s top companies in terms of vocational training for the fifth year running in 2021.

For more information, visit www.rittal.com and [www.friedhelm-loh-group.com](http://www.friedhelm-loh-group.com).

**About German Edge Cloud**

German Edge Cloud (GEC), a member of the Friedhelm Loh Group, specialises in innovative edge and cloud computing. GEC solutions enable the rapid, simple and secure availability of data in connected environments. They support process optimisation, for instance in manufacturing, by empowering data analytics, and guarantee customers complete control over their data when using public or private clouds.

GEC is a developer and service integrator for turnkey solutions, offering both its own and sector-specific systems. The company already deploys its solutions at the Industry 4.0 factory of sister company Rittal in Haiger. German Edge Cloud integrates and operates hybrid private edge-cloud infrastructures.

Its offerings include infrastructure as a service (IaaS), platform as a service (PaaS), and industry-specific applications as software as a service (SaaS). As a founding member of the Gaia-X Foundation, German Edge Cloud seeks to establish interoperable platforms with minimal customer lock-in.

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**More information:**[www.gec.io](http://www.gec.io) and [www.friedhelm-loh-group.com](http://www.friedhelm-loh-group.com)