Rittal, Eplan, and GEC at Hannover Messe 2022

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Hall 11, Booth E06

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What the smart factory needs today: Consistently networked ecosystems

**The objectives of industrial transformation are clear: It is all a matter of more transparency, speed, and sustainability in manufacturing and operation. Digitalisation and networking of the industrial and IT ecosystems is here a prerequisite: For machine and plant engineering, automation, and IIoT solutions, IT infrastructures, and smart services. At the Hannover Trade Fair 2022, Rittal, Eplan, and German Edge Cloud – for the first time together on a joint stand – will be showing you how they integrate these different worlds and support businesses on the road to a smart factory. A particular focus is placed on solutions for the efficient, secure and sustainable operation of machine systems and manufacturing processes.**

Herborn, 22 April 2022 – The smart factory, with its AI, real-time, 5G, and Industry 4.0 applications, is still a future dream for many companies. Practical experience in the manufacturing industry indicates that even after almost ten years of “Industry 4.0”, there’s still plenty of potential for digitalisation. In fact, for many manufacturing companies, it’s only now – after they’ve spent time learning – that things are getting going, but even by taking the first steps in this direction, they can achieve benefits.

“If companies want to manufacture their products sustainably, cost-effectively and with ultimate speed and flexibility, they need to implement digitally integrated production and consistent networking of their processes and ecosystems,” says Markus Asch, CEO of Rittal International. “The Friedhelm Loh Group combines the industrial experience and technology know-how of Rittal, Eplan and German Edge Cloud to overcome frequently perceived boundaries between the worlds of machine and plant engineering, automation, IIoT and IT, and to unlock further potential for customers by bringing these worlds even closer together.”

The joint presentations place a particular focus on solutions for the efficient, secure and sustainable operation of mechanical systems.

**Digital workflows: From engineering to maintenance**

The Eplan platform, as an engineering system built around standardised data, interfaces, and complementary cloud services, realises an integrated and transparent workflow along the entire value chain – from engineering, via manufacturing and commissioning, through to plant operation. Solutions provider Eplan is presenting the current Eplan Platform 2022 with its object-oriented data management functions, the new “Insert Center” and cleverly integrated cloud solutions. Hannover is at the same time an opportunity for interested visitors to catch a first glimpse of the upcoming Eplan Platform 2023, which will greatly simplify the handling of circuit diagram macros in respect of international norms and standards. A new graphics engine and a central device management system are further innovations awaiting the trade public. Novelties such as the Eplan Data Portal request process, through which companies can order standardised data for individual devices via a credit system, are likewise on the agenda.

The showcase of a roller conveyor demonstrates how companies can benefit from a fully digitalised engineering database – also in case of a machine breakdown, where the source of a problem must be found as quickly as possible. In such scenarios, cloud solutions from Eplan are backed up with technologies from the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and the field of augmented reality (AR).

**Enclosures in the cloud**

To ensure that relevant panel building and switchgear manufacturing data are always up to date, Rittal has developed the new digital wiring plan pocket “Rittal ePocket”. A QR code on the enclosure permits access to the complete equipment and system documentation, including the digital twin in EPLAN Cloud, which is always up-to-date over the entire service life. Service and maintenance staff can directly access up-to-date wiring plans right on the system with a smartphone or tablet. This ensures quick troubleshooting in the event of repairs and maintenance.

**Cooling systems and services for more sustainability**

The energy-efficient, sustainable operation of control systems and switchgear is another key issue. Therefore Rittal will be unveiling its new Blue e+ S cooling units, which initial test installations have shown to be up to 70 per cent more energy saving compared with previous solutions due to efficient hybrid cooling with a passive heat pipe. A new refrigerant further reduces the Global Warming Potential. Also incorporated are technologies to enable networking with service offers. Rittal Smart Service permits the visualisation of the operating characteristics of cooling units. Rittal Smart Service enables the visualisation of the operating characteristics of cooling units. Data are communicated in real-time to facilitate the planning of required maintenance and to ensure that critical errors are detected as early as possible. Automated processing of the cooling unit data lays the foundations for fast error rectification – and thus maximised machine availability.

**Full transparency in production**

Solutions geared specifically to machine operation are not alone in the spotlight. German Edge Cloud points out that even the first steps towards digital transformation offer significant opportunities for the optimisation of existing manufacturing structures. Taking the example of the new Rittal factory in Haiger, the IIoT specialist will be showing how data can be used in an intelligent production environment designed according to Industry 4.0 principles. More than 250 high-tech machines and plant components are networked with each other, while the digital production system, Oncite, enhances transparency and expands the possibilities for plant and system control based on data analyses. This all helps production managers to recognise developing bottlenecks, problems, and disturbances in good time and to intervene immediately.

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. A modular, end-to-end system that covers rack, power, cooling, security, and monitoring, can be used to build customised solutions for all IT scenarios easily and quickly. Everything from the rack, rack edge, enterprise, and colocation data centres to hyperscale data centres can be configured. A showcase for 3D data centre planning and construction introduces the latest solutions from the Rittal Competence Centre. One particular highlight is the all-in-one OT solution of a Rittal data centre container with innovative Blue e+ outdoor cooling units, which enables outdoor expansion of an existing IT infrastructure based on resource-sparing, cost-effective, and energy-efficient cooling technology.

To simplify and accelerate the selection and procurement of system solutions in enclosure technology, Rittal is offering digitised sourcing processes and tools like the new RiPanel Configurator and the Online Shop. The key to accelerated processes lies in the 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 TopTherm chillers, and the VX25 Ri4Power system for accidental arcing protection (class A and B). Furthermore, Rittal is presenting the latest solutions for implementing energy storage and charging infrastructure systems.

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**Captions**

Picture 1 (fri22203900.jpg): At the Hannover Trade Fair 2022, Rittal, Eplan, and German Edge Cloud – for the first time together on a joint stand – will be showing you how they integrate IT and industry and support businesses on the road to a smart factory.

Picture 2 (fri22204000.jpg): “If companies want to manufacture their products sustainably, cost-effectively and with ultimate speed and flexibility, they need to implement digitally integrated production and consistent networking of their processes and ecosystems,” says Markus Asch, CEO of Rittal International.

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**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 a great carbon advantage 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 2022, the family-run business was named one of Germany’s leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the 14th 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. In 2022, Rittal was awarded the Top 100 Seal as one of Germany’s most innovative medium-sized companies.

For more information, visit www.rittal.com and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com.

**About EPLAN**

EPLAN provides software and service solutions in the fields of electrical, automation, and mechatronics 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 use their expertise more efficiently. Worldwide, EPLAN supports 61,000 customers. EPLAN wants to grow further with customers and partners and pushes integration and automation in engineering forward. Within the EPLAN Partner Network, open interfaces and seamless integrations are implemented together with partners. “Efficient engineering” is the focus.

EPLAN was founded in 1984 and is part of the owner-operated Friedhelm Loh Group. The family business is active world-wide with 12 production sites and 94 international subsidiaries. It has 11,600 employees and posted revenues of €2.6 billion in fiscal 2019. For the fourteenth time in succession, the group has won the accolade “Top German Employer” in 2022. Within the scope of a Germany-wide survey, Focus Money magazine identified the Friedhelm Loh Group as one of the nation’s best providers of vocational training in 2021.

Further information can be found at:

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

**About German Edge Cloud**

German Edge Cloud (GEC) specialises in edge and cloud systems for data-sensitive companies, especially in industrial manufacturing. The company integrates and operates hybrid private edge cloud infrastructures from Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) to Platform as a Service (PaaS) and industry-specific applications in the Software as a Service (SaaS) model. 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 guaranteeing 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.

As a co-founder of the Gaia-X Foundation, German Edge Cloud stands for the development of a competitive, sovereign data infrastructure in Europe to be used for the secure digitalisation and networking of industry, finance, and healthcare. As a founding member of the Catena-X Automotive Network, German Edge Cloud is also driving forward the vision of end-to-end data exchange for all participants in the automotive value chain.

German Edge Cloud is a member of the owner-operated Friedhelm Loh Group based in Haiger, Germany. The Group is now active worldwide with 12 production sites and 94 international subsidiaries. The Friedhelm Loh Group employs 11,600 people and generated revenues of approximately €2.6 billion in 2019. In 2022, the family-run business was named one of Germany’s leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the 14th 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.gec.io and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com.