

Press release

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG



Worldwide user organisation for IoT launched

Rittal is a founding member of the MindSphere World IoT platform

Around 20 industrial companies, including Rittal and Siemens, belong to the newly founded “MindSphere World” global user organisation for the cloud-based “MindSphere” open IoT operating system. Its aim is to expand the global reach of the ecosystem based on MindSphere. The organization is also designed to afford support to its individual members in developing and improving IoT solutions on the MindSphere platform and in tapping new markets in the digital economy.

Herborn, 08 February 2018 – “The newly founded organisation will create synergy effects for all the participants and drive the development of IoT with MindSphere through concentrated expertise. Rittal, as a driver for new developments, will expand its expertise for scalable and secure edge IT infrastructures that enable companies to rapidly create additional computing power in modern manufacturing environments”, Andreas Keiger, Rittal’s Executive Vice President Global BU IT infrastructure, told the membership in Berlin at the end of January.

“The foundation of MindSphere World represents another major step forward in promoting the ecosystem surrounding MindSphere as an open IoT platform. The broad-based expertise and the offering of all the MindSphere World partners will open up totally new digitalization potential for users everywhere,” said Member of the Managing Board of Siemens AG Klaus Helmrich.

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Jan Mrosik, Chairman of the Management Board of MindSphere World and CEO of the Siemens Digital Factory Division, added: “By bringing together a community comprising industrial and IT companies of all sizes from all sectors of industry and from start-ups, we are aiming to establish and drive forward a worldwide ecosystem based on MindSphere.” With this end in mind, the Association members are joining to form MindSphere World – initially in Germany and then extending out into the international arena.”

MindSphere’s open structure helps producers to integrate machines and systems and to develop apps independently of particular manufacturers. Within the framework of MindSphere World, members can now also talk to other users about ways in which disruptive technologies are changing the face of the economy in general, and about the resulting business potential which could be utilized for IoT-based solutions. Because the development of standards plays a decisive role when it comes to establishing a worldwide ecosystem, the members of MindSphere World will be working together to come up with recommendations for standards in relation to MindSphere-based apps. Besides this, interoperability between different MindSphere-based solutions needs to be enabled.

Services for predictive maintenance

“We are currently using MindSphere in our networked ‘Blue e+’ cooling units,” explains Andreas Keiger. Integration of the Industry 4.0-capable Rittal cooling units in Siemens MindSphere permits targeted data analysis. “In the medium and long term, we will be developing services for the maintenance and repair of cooling devices in the sense of predictive maintenance”, Mr Keiger added.

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With on-demand maintenance, unlike with interval-driven maintenance, costs can be reduced and uptime increased at the same time. A route optimisation for maintenance also forms part of the solution. Plus, because up-to-the-minute data on each unit is available on the IoT platform, staff know what replacement parts they will require for the job in hand, eliminating the need for multiple trips.

The inaugural meeting of MindSphere World took place in the recently opened innovative development and work environment “MindSphere OpenSpace”, a part of the new branch of Factory Berlin. Over an office space of more than 13,000 square meters, Factory Berlin – an initiative supported by the German Government, Siemens and other companies – brings established technology companies together with developers and start-ups. The key focus of the new start-up campus is the Internet of Things. “MindSphere OpenSpace” creates the ideal conditions for advancing the development of apps and digital services, for opening up new markets and for supporting the digital transformation.

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Caption(s)

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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 can be found in more than 90 percent of all global branches of industry, including mechanical and plant

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engineering, food and beverage production and in IT and telecommunications.

The wide range of products from the global market leader includes configurable enclosures, whose data is available throughout the entire production process. Intelligent Rittal cooling solutions with up to 75 percent lower energy and CO₂ consumption can communicate with the production environment and enable predictive maintenance and service concepts. Innovative IT solutions ranging from IT racks and modular data centres through to edge and hyperscale computing solutions all form part of the portfolio.

Leading software providers EPLAN and Cideon complement the value chain, providing interdisciplinary engineering solutions, while Rittal Automation Systems offer automation systems for switchgear construction. Rittal delivers within 24 hours in Germany – precisely as needed, flexibly and efficiently.

Founded in Herborn in 1961, Rittal is the largest member company in the owner-operated Friedhelm Loh Group. The Friedhelm Loh Group operates worldwide with 18 production sites and 80 international subsidiaries. The entire group employs more than 11,300 people and generated revenues of around €2.2 billion in 2016. In 2017, the family-owned enterprise was named one of Germany's leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the ninth year running. 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 for the second time in 2017.

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