

Reference Blickle Räder+Rollen GmbH u. Co. KG

Time recording and access control at Blickle

Security concept for new building

With 1,300 employees, the family business Blickle has been developing and producing wheel and castor types, electric drive systems and customized solutions for customers from various industries for 70 years.

Areas of application include the engineering industry, materials handling, food industry as well as medical technology, making Blickle one of the world's leading manufacturers. The product portfolio encompassed 30,000 different wheel and castor types. A new 24,000 sqm production building for polyurethane wheels was inaugurated at the headquarters in Rosenfeld in 2023. It will allow the growing company to continue fulfilling innovative and modern production standards in the future. In addition, Blickle opened the newly constructed office building, which includes the Blickle Experience Center and a new canteen, on the occasion of the company anniversary. Since then, the Interflex access control solution ensured optimal protection of the newly constructed building complex and production plants.

Wanted: Flexible solution for new requirements

Blickle has been relying on Interflex access solutions since 2002. Back then, it was still the IF-6020 platform. However, changing to a new personnel accounting system from SAP (SAP HCM) in 2018 made a new solution for time recording and access control necessary. For the HR department it was important that the solution would allow for a high level of SAP integration, organizes digital administration of employees' credential data efficiently and remains available even in the event of a system failure. For the IT manager the focus was primarily on IT security aspects in addition to easy maintenance of the system and that the software can be smoothly updated to the latest state-of-the-art

Industry:

Manufacturing industry

Size of enterprise:

1.300 employees
worldwide

(900 of whom at the headquarters in
Rosenfeld, Germany)

Solution:

- Access control
- Time & Attendance
Recording
(SAP front-end computer)
- Opendor^{card}

Products used:

- IF-5735 terminal
- IF-4072 controller
- Access terminal IF-800
- IF-271 Door Handle card

at any time via patches and updates. For the architect, who was responsible for the new building, it was important that the access solution is integrated into the overall architectural picture without compromising security or user friendliness.

Within the context of the call for tenders, the Interflex access solution was the most convincing once again. There were various reasons for this as Simon Schmid, HR employee and key user of the application, remembers: "One aspect in favor of the Interflex solution IF-6040 was especially the high reliability of the online system. We were impressed that the existing system is extendable and flexible." We were able to integrate new controllers and terminals into the existing infrastructure with minimal effort. In addition, the pleasing design of the solution scored high from a user standpoint. Also, it was easy to integrate the offline-operated locking components into the online environment.

Implementation into the new building

In the run-up to the implementation, careful preparations were carried out by an electrical specialist planner for the electrical work to gradually integrate the access control solution into the new building in line with the construction progress. The service employees of Interflex carried out the necessary work in accordance with the respective construction progress and in coordination with the parties involved, who represented different departments on the customer's side, e.g. HR and Facility Management.

After the conversion to the new personnel accounting system from SAP, online time recording terminals, the IF-5735, were installed in the new buildings. The terminals are wired and connected to the higher-level IF-6040 system. They are used as front-end devices via which the employees record their work times. Subsequently, the work times are transferred via an SAP interface by automated process to SAP HCM, where they are processed for payroll accounting and other internal applications. "In particular, the implementation and integration of the SAP connection went absolutely smooth", sums up Markus Raumann, project manager and HR manager at Blickle. "It has become an essential part of our working life. "

The customer says:

„The high reliability was an aspect in favor of the IF-6040 solution.

For us it was convincing that the system is extendable and flexible.”

Simon Schmid,
HR employee



Combined access solution

Today, a combination of different access control solutions provide a high level of security at the Rosenfeld site. Wired online solutions with the access terminal type IF-800 can primarily be found at highly frequented indoor and outdoor access points, for example at the entrance to the premises, at turnstiles and at the exterior doors. This allows for constant monitoring of access movements in real time in the security control center, but also for controlling additional security functions.

At less frequented access points indoors, e.g. conference rooms and storage rooms, access control is supplemented with “NetworkOnCard” solutions with battery-operated access components of the Opendor (card version) product line. This solution can be efficiently integrated into any operating environment without complex construction measures and is used as an effective replacement for keys. Additional security is provided by an integrated elevator control system. RFID-based key fobs (chip format) are used for bookings at the access terminals and locking components.

Control center for efficient control

The IF-6040 system is the core and management platform where the management of all access permissions and the real time monitoring and control of the wired terminals in Rosenfeld and another German site converge. The high level of flexibility and automation of the system are being used to implement the specific requirements for the site.

On the one hand, the structuring of person records by internal and external, as well as third-party employees and suppliers who are assigned with specific roles and access permissions should be mentioned. On the other hand, the company’s organizational chart is mapped in IF-6040. When there are organizational changes, such as transfers or new hires, this allows to automatically assign the new permissions or withdraw them in the case of employees leaving the company. In addition, access control was integrated at the bike gates which is intended to improve theft protection.

With respect to integrating the access control system into the existing building management system, the system also proved to be flexible. For example, an additional piece of third-party hardware was connected to the IF-6040 system via an interface to the building control system. This allows you, for example, to manually activate a controller other than the connected one in the online network for a release at the access terminal.

“With the Interflex system, we now have a system for numerous requirements that was easy to integrate into the existing corporate structure, works offline if needed and provides standardized access permissions”, explains project manager Markus Raumann. “The additional introduction of the NetworkOnCard solution allowed us to reduce the number of keys that were circulating to a minimum. Now we have only one access medium.” Especially the latter allowed to optimize the payment process in the canteen since the credential media now include a payment function.



Time recording device IF-5735



Access terminal IF-800



IF-4072 controller



IF-271 Electronic Door Handle card



Technology replaces keys: Opendor^{card}

Blickle used the opportunity of redesigning the new building to upgrade all existing wireless NetworkOnCard solutions. Since 2022, the new battery-operated door handles (IF-271 Electronic Door Handle card) of the Opendor product line are therefore being used. This solution that is specifically designed for offline applications is based on a new reader platform in the battery-operated component that allows for upgrading to a wireless online solution (air version) at any time in the future.

With the card solution, Blickle primarily pursued two goals: On the one hand to eliminate mechanical keys. On the other hand, connecting these access points to the online system. The central management system, for example, allows for quick locking of access points if need be. In addition, the solution proved more flexible with respect to the number and options of access permissions as compared to the mechanical version. This is because employees are now able to substitute each other if they have the same access permissions. In contrast, several copies of keys had to be distributed for this purpose. And the fact that Blickle can now install the battery-operated door handles itself without problems is another advantage of the solution.

“A very coherent overall concept”

Markus Raumann, as a project manager, knows that the new installation of a security solution within the scope of a new building, as was the case at Blickle, is a complex topic: “Especially the topic access control, internal as well as external, should not be viewed in isolation. It should be embedded in a comprehensive project in which issues such as security of premises, video surveillance, security service, perimeter security, etc. play a role.”

Thus, Blickle was satisfied overall with the implemented Interflex security solution. “Some technical challenges did exist with the offline locking components in the beginning”, continues Raumann. But then, they were always able to find a viable solution together with the consultants and service employees of Interflex for any emerging issues. Therefore they would always decide in favor of a solution with Interflex, also because of their excellent business relationship over many years.

The customer says:

„The introduction of the NetworkOnCard solution allowed us to reduce the number of keys that were circulating to a minimum. Now we only have one credential medium.”

Markus Raumann,
Project Manager

“Interflex always provided good advice when there was a question as to which hardware solution should be installed on a particular door,” stated Simon Schmid by emphasizing the service and consultation. “We really liked it that we always had the same contact person from the installation to the startup. The result was a very coherent overall concept.” The service was perceived positively especially when changes arose from construction conditions at short notice, for example, when a different terminal or different coverage became necessary. “In conclusion, it can be said that the solution makes work easier for our administrators and provides a high level of security at the same time”, wraps up Raumann. “It is a reliable, stable system with a high level of security.”

The customer says:

„We really liked it that we always had the same contact person from the installation to the startup.

This way, everything turned into a very coherent overall concept.”

Simon Schmid,
HR employee

