



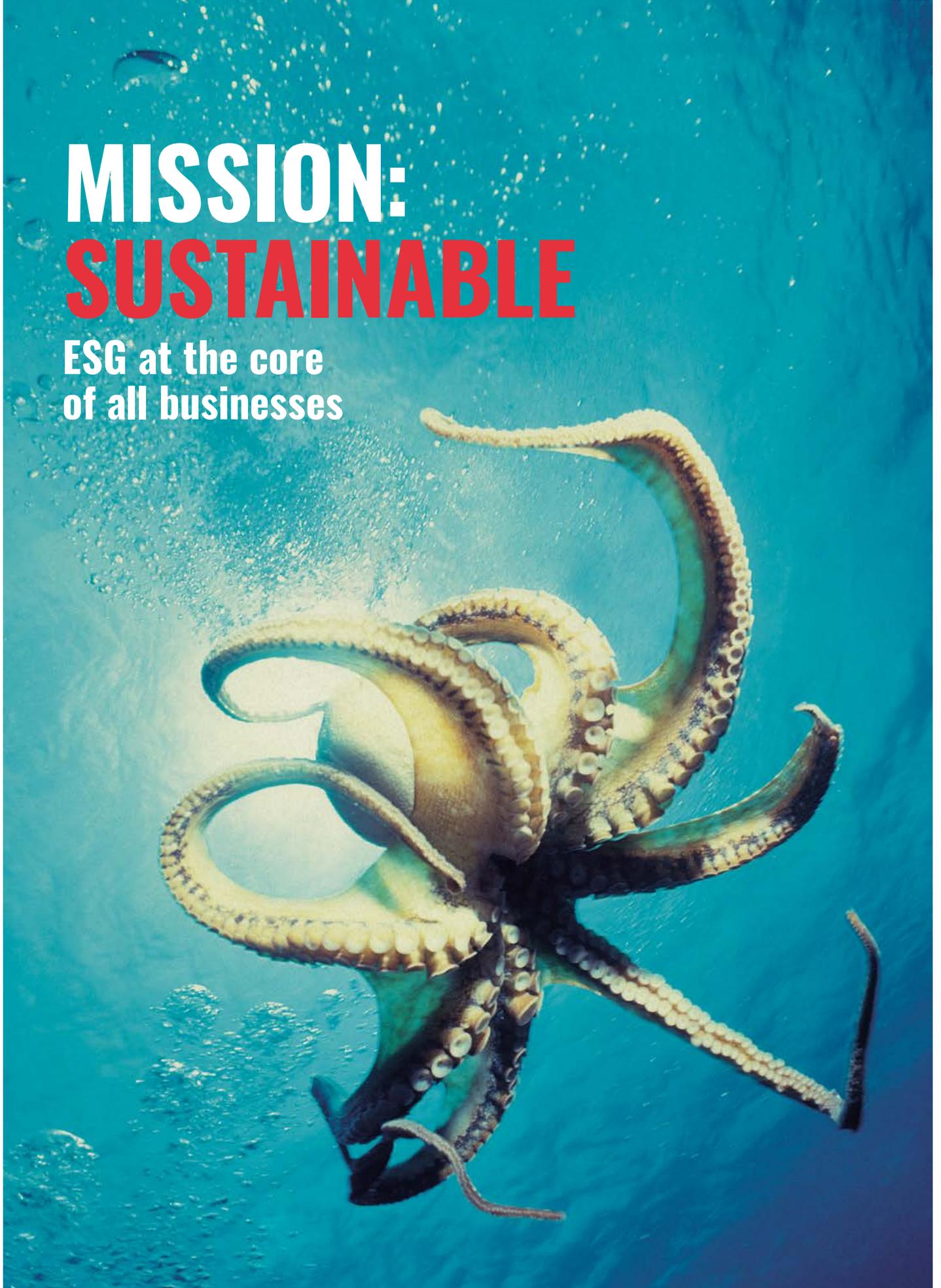
NEXT LEVEL

Insights into the world of industrial procurement in the DACH region

ISSUE 2022/23

MISSION: SUSTAINABLE

ESG at the core
of all businesses



**Making amazing happen
for a better world**
Action Plan 2030
for more sustainability

RS for Future
The commitment
of our employees
for sustainability projects

Double anniversary
10 years of RS
in Switzerland,
30 years in Austria

Conserving resources
Sustainable solutions
at RS PRO

SUSTAINABILITY – A TREND THAT STAYS!



Dear readers,

accelerating the transformation towards more sustainability – that is the opportunity that current world events offer us. They affect almost all areas of life – from politics over society and the economy to the environment, and clearly demonstrate to us that in future we will have to understand ESG*

even more strongly as a steering instrument for sustainable economic activity. Today, the central questions concern both private individuals and companies: Where do goods and components come from? Under what conditions is production carried out? How much energy could be saved? ESG is not a 'nice to have', but a fundamental component of management decisions. Sustainability is not a new topic for RS, but a central part of our corporate culture at all locations in DACH. In this issue you will find informative and inspiring articles on the topic of sustainable business. After the German site celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, the Austrian site in Gmünd also reached this milestone this year.

And in Switzerland, we have already been at your side for 10 years. Our thanks go not only to all our employees (among whom we count many 10-, 20- or even 30-year anniversaries), but especially to our loyal and long-standing customers!

What we were also pleased about this year:

a gold medal from EcoVadis, an independent provider of global sustainability ratings. This means that we as a company score very well on environmental protection, labour and human rights, business ethics, and sustainable procurement. This puts us in the top five percent of the 75,000 companies rated by EcoVadis. Our next goal: Platinum status.

Together with the entire RS team, I wish you a successful 2023 and much enjoyment with the new issue of our customer magazine.



RALF HELLWIG, Managing Director RS DACH



ENDANGERED UNDERWATER WORLD

Stefan Maas, Marketing Specialist:

»As an amateur photographer, I document flora and fauna of our oceans on my holiday trips. As beautiful as the underwater world is at first glance, the effects of global climate change on the world's oceans are dramatic. The more CO₂ we emit, the more the ocean ecosystem suffers. The water is getting warmer and more acidic, and the effects are fatal. It is already five past twelve, WE must stop this trend.«



3,000 M² FLOWER MEADOW AT THE GMÜND SITE, AUSTRIA

In Bad Hersfeld, a 1,000 m² bee- and insect-friendly flower meadow was already established in 2021. RS Austria has now also established a recurring flower and meadow landscape with long-term seeding over an area of 3,000 m².

Karl Bartl, Health & Safety Manager:

»This project is intended to be self-sustaining without additional seeding. The plants are not primarily for the human eye, but for insects.

There are four different varieties of clover, chamomile, yarrow and much more. The meadow was left until September 2022 so that all the seeds could drop out and was then gently mowed with a sickle bar mower in an insect-friendly manner. From year to year, the flowering plants will prevail and push back the grasses.«



CONSTRUCTION OF RAISED GARDEN BEDS AT THE FRANKFURT OFFICE

Frank Behrens, PR Manager:

»Beginning of summer 2022, four raised beds were built, planted, and cultivated in collective team work on the terrace of RS headquarters to motivate our employees to more sustainable and healthy nutrition. But we also want to contribute to maintaining the integrity of the biodiversity, especially at a site like Frankfurt city.«

RS FOR FUTURE

The people behind the sustainability projects



TREE SPONSORSHIPS AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

All of our employees in Munich and Frankfurt as well as in the sales force have been proud sponsors of two trees each since Christmas 2021. As part of this sustainable Christmas greeting, a total of 152 sponsorships for 304 trees in a reforestation area near Hanover were donated by RS. The sponsorship is valid for 5 years. **Ulrike Müller, Office Manager:** »Trees are among the most impressive living creatures on our planet, they provide oxygen, store carbon, filter dust, provide shade, are a source of food for humans and animals. There are many reasons to plant trees, to preserve them and to encourage their growth. That is why I stand for the BALDWALD project – tree sponsorships.«



EXPANSION OF SUSTAINABILITY AT THE DC SITE IN BAD HERSFELD

Sven Reuß, MD Supply Chain: »Thanks to a photovoltaic system on the roof, we obtain a large part of our energy supply from renewable sources. The solar cells cover almost the entire roof area of around 9,000 m². The generated production capacity of 750 kWh thus permanently improves our CO₂ balance. At the same time, optimised product matching ensures that packaging is better adapted to product dimensions. This means significant savings in packaging materials. Energy efficiency measures are promoted, among other things, through the use of LED lighting.«

30 APPLE TREES AS PART OF THE ORCHARD MEADOW

As part of a volunteer project, staff members planted apple trees of different native varieties near the new part of our RS distribution centre in Bad Hersfeld in November 2021. The regional group of the German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) was also represented and assisted with the professional execution. From now on, the meadow orchard is integrated into the regular maintenance of the RS green spaces.



THE WASHING MACHINE PROJECT

Making Amazing Happen is always our goal and that is why we have chosen to partner with »The Washing Machine Project« as our first global charity partner. This small charity has developed an innovative, off-grid solution to help people in vulnerable communities around the world to wash their clothes – a huge challenge as 70% of the world's population do not have

access to a washing machine. Specifically, the implementation plan for this is as follows:

- Developing our own innovative technical solution: an affordable, off-grid washing machine with a hand crank.
- The distribution of washing machines to people in particularly needy areas in ten countries around the world.



- Raising awareness of a global reality: washing clothes by hand.
- »The Washing Machine Project« shares our ambitions for a more sustainable world: through education and innovative solutions that make people's lives easier.
- Our goal: raise £1 million over the next three years.
- Our first stage target is to raise £300,000, with £100,000 provided by the company.

Over the next three years, our commitment with »The Washing Machine Project« will help improve the lives of over 100,000 people!



The engineer Naw Sawnhey (right) invented the Divya – a low-cost washing machine, which works without electricity thanks to its hand crank drive.



Project video



Donation link

MORE EFFICIENT WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT

For every euro spent on MRO* goods, there is often an additional two euros for procurement processes. Our three examples show: There are better ways.

1 PP CONTROL & AUTOMATION

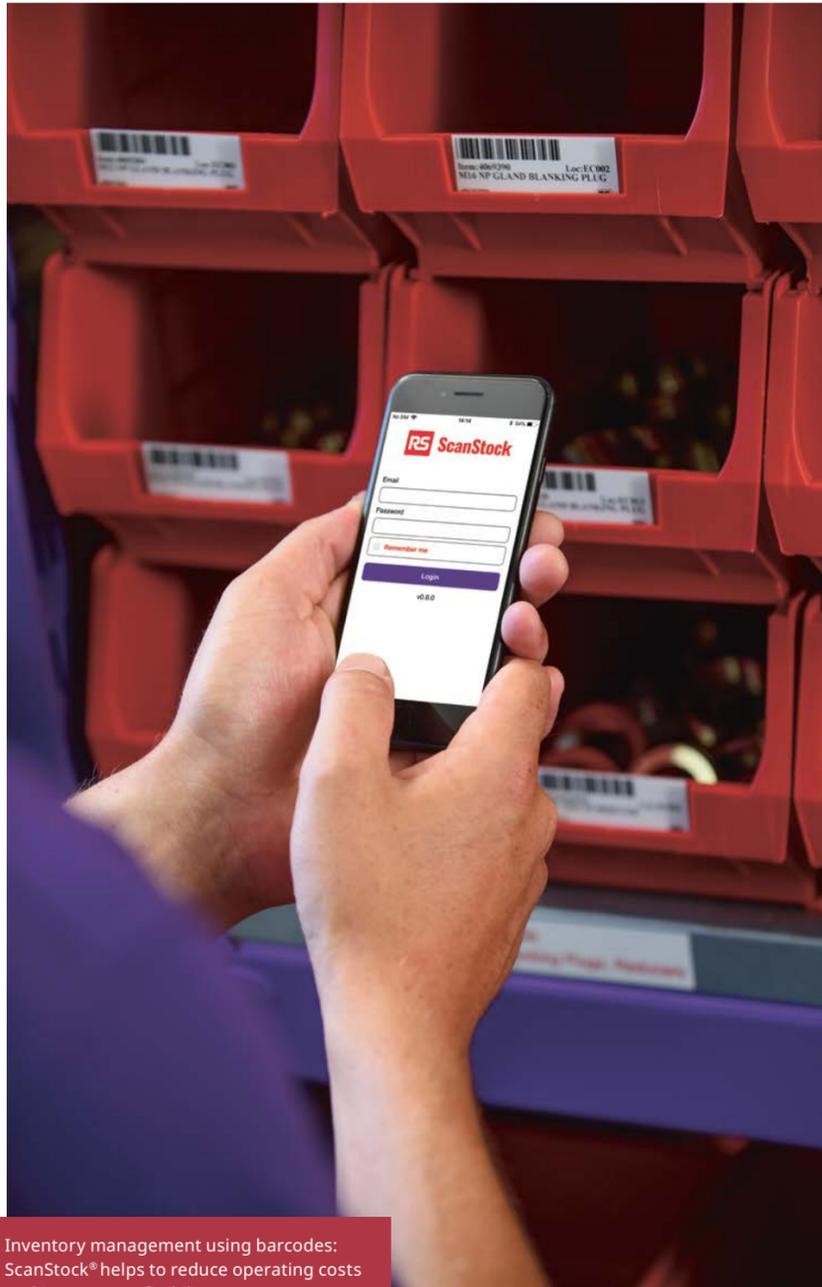
sells around 3,000 different assemblies and buys between 9,000 and 10,000 different components per year from almost 600 manufacturers. The procurement costs were far higher than the costs for the parts themselves. This problem was most apparent with low-value items. The company therefore turned to RS, which offered ScanStock® as a solution. The contract includes the management of about 800 SKUs in open bins and stock checks and replenishment two days a week.

The result: ordering time and downtime in operations were significantly reduced.

2 A WATER SUPPLY COMPANY

wanted to consolidate its consolidate its expenditure structure. An important piece of the puzzle was the change from reactive to predictive maintenance. To do this, it was imperative to work with only one supplier of MRO parts, who would be able to ensure standardised stock levels so that they would be immediately available for planned maintenance. RS provided the right solution with ScanStock®, a supplier-managed inventory system where RS takes over the control and replenishment of contracted products.

The result: since then, process costs have been reduced by 70 per cent through time savings and simpler purchase-to-pay processes. Calculated over a year, this results in savings of almost 54,500 euros.



Inventory management using barcodes: ScanStock® helps to reduce operating costs and increase profitability.

3 MACE INDUSTRIES is a manufacturer of chain-driven conveyor belts and material handling solutions. In the manufacturing processes, Mace used hundreds of individual parts which the company bought ad hoc from many different suppliers. This made the production processes cumbersome, production had to be stopped when parts were missing, and the large number of suppliers became increasingly confusing over time. Here, RS ScanStock® helped to monitor the stocks so that there were no more stops due to missing parts.

The result: savings of 13,683 euros per year and significantly higher productivity.

WE HAVE THE SOLUTION TO INTELLIGENT CONTROL OF YOUR INVENTORY MANAGEMENT



ScanStock®

Optimise your value chain by networking further, whether in production or maintenance. The availability of goods and the costs are the important aspects here.

Good enterprise resource planning opens up great potentials. Create the ideal basis here on order to achieve considerable savings in the procurement of components with high consumption and low value.

According to our own research – in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) – people responsible for maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) face these daily pressures. 55% of them are focused on reducing comprehensive operating costs and 52% on managing inventory costs.

To help you solve this challenge, we included these insights, customer feedback, and our own experience into our new inventory solution. It allows multiple employees to generate orders, as well as keeping track of consumption through automated reports, from which future purchasing decisions can be derived. Through our ScanStock™ concept, we help you reduce costs, control pricing and reduce inventory – the optimal inventory solution to increase efficiency.

Our sales analyses show that in the product areas of mechanics and pneumatics, the average sales price per unit is just over 19 euros. Many small bearings or other mechanical components or pneumatic fittings are inexpensive per unit, but due to the high consumption of these items, one is often confronted with relatively high transaction costs due to numerous orders with low values.

Implementing our ScanStock™ solution through inventory management using barcodes will help to both reduce your operating costs and increase your profitability as well as help you address various challenges such as:



Mismanagement of inventory due to lack of control or unclear responsibilities.



Technical materials are stored in a single location, so you face significant travel and waiting times.



Production and maintenance staff 'book out' more to create their own 'reserve stock', meaning that the total investment in stock is much higher than required.



Limited reporting – many organisations only process re-orders and do not track for whom or what the products are used.

RS CELEBRATES ...



... 10 YEARS OF PRESENCE IN SWITZERLAND

RS celebrates its ten-year market presence in Switzerland this year with its own branch office: In 2012 the distributor moved into the premises in Wädenswil and built up a powerful team for direct customer contact. Due to its dynamic, the Swiss market is of strategic importance to RS, far beyond the country's borders. A lot has happened since then and the next steps have already been clearly defined.

Addressing customers directly in this economic area was an important prerequisite for RS to tap the growth potential within Europe even better. In addition, the foundation of the Swiss branch in 2012 was a logical consequence from the regionalisation at a European level initiated by the parent company two years earlier.

»After these successful ten years we are by no means resting on our laurels. In the near future we will reach an important milestone in the area of IT systems, which will provide an even better customer experience.«

RUDOLF KOCH
Country Manager Austria, Switzerland and Slovenia

RS has established itself on the market as a leading specialist distributor for industrial customers. Customers appreciate the wide range of products. It includes many products with low stock turnover, but which are of crucial importance precisely when the maintenance of business operations is at stake. The own brand RS PRO offers high industrial quality at an attractive price. Many RS products enable efficiency gains and lower CO₂ emissions.

... 30 YEARS OF PRESENCE IN AUSTRIA

From the Gmünd location, the team not only serves the market in Austria. As part of a global Centre of Excellence model, RS in the Waldviertel also performs tasks for the entire German-speaking region. These lie in particular in the area of customer service.

The result is a committed team that has now grown to over 100 colleagues. At RS it is not true that technology is a purely male domain. The proportion of women in the workforce is over 70 per cent. The distributor also attaches great importance to the flexibility of the working place and enables mobile working to a large extent.

Rudolf Koch, Country Manager Austria, Switzerland and Slovenia, draws a very positive balance, especially with regard to the recent past: »Our experience has allowed us to recognise challenges for the market's supply chains at an early stage. Working closely with our suppliers to secure and appropriately invest in larger inventories ensured strong availability and drove performance. We provide industry-leading availability despite significant and serious supply chain constraints around the world.«

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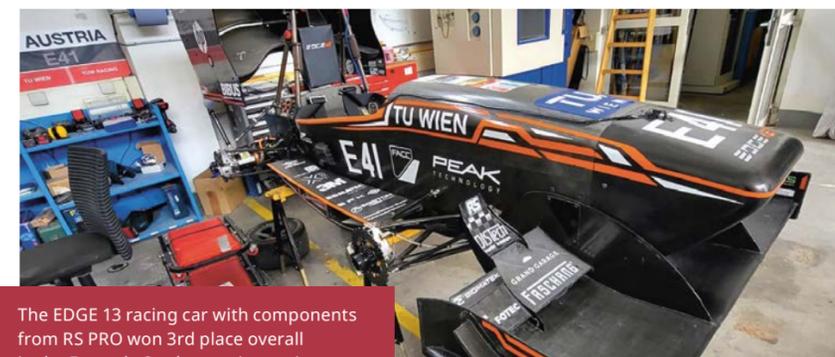
STUDENT BOLIDE OF THE TU VIENNA RUNS WITH TECHNOLOGY FROM RS

RS PRO supports the TUW Racing team of the Formula Student.

At this year's start of the Formula Student student racing series, RS technology was also on the starting line. RS supported the TUW Racing team of the Vienna University of Technology in the development of the EDGE 13 racer, with which the young engineers took on the international competition. Particular emphasis was placed on products of the own brand RS PRO.

The team was founded in 2007 and took part in the competition with a monocoque for the first time in 2012. In 2013, the contemporary electric drive was added. TUM Racing currently relies on the support of 90 members. They bring a wide range of knowledge to the table. They are particularly proud of the motors, inverters and the battery management system, which were developed in-house.

The latest project, the EDGE 13 racing car, again represents a technical milestone. For the first time, it will have four-wheel drive and, due to the new driverless category in Formula Student, will also be able to drive without a driver. For maximum performance, the team has developed a new inverter and new motors. A new monocoque creates space for the additional components. Finally, there



The EDGE 13 racing car with components from RS PRO won 3rd place overall in the Formula Student racing series.

was also a completely new aerodynamics package.

Without parts from the range of the distributor's own brand RS PRO, these advances would not have been possible. They form an important part of the RS range. RS PRO offers customers an alternative where the combination of quality, performance and attractive price mean an additional advantage. The supply range, for example, includes over 8,400 forward-looking smart connectivity products that support IIoT solutions. These include sensors that transmit data from machines and plants to IIoT systems, controllers, evaluation systems or clouds. Network infrastructure with cables, connectors, Ethernet

switches and sensor boxes, but also the corresponding measurement technology, can also be found here.

In Formula Student, students work in teams to build a single-seater formula racing car and compete against teams from all over the world with this unit. The winner is not simply the fastest car, but the team with the best overall package of construction and racing performance, financial planning, and sales arguments. The claim of the Formula Student is to complement the studies in order to combine intensive experience in the fields of design and manufacturing with the economic aspects of automotive engineering. In the USA, such competitions have existed since 1981.

»RS is a reliable partner in difficult times«

F&S BONDTEC Semiconductor GmbH, a supplier of electronics manufacturing and test equipment, praises its cooperation with RS and highlights the distributor's reliability.

F&S BONDTEC Semiconductor GmbH recently underlined this clearly from the customer's point of view. The supplier of electronics manufacturing and test equipment emphasised how much a resilient supply chain is of vital importance, especially in the current situation. Here, RS are on the side of the specialists from Braunau with punctual and accurate deliveries.

F&S BONDTEC covers the desktop bonder and tester segment worldwide and offers a wide range of production and test equipment. The product range includes, for example, the Desktop Micro Factory, which combines all wire bonding processes and, in addition, all test methods in one machine base. The company, founded in 1994, also sees itself as an innovation leader in fully automatic bond testing. Since its foundation, several thousand wire bonders and bond testers have left the factory, where almost 40 people are employed.

The devices are used in many laboratories, development departments, pilot productions and productions worldwide.

Supporting customers far beyond mere delivery is very close to the distributor's heart. The RS design ecosystem DesignSpark therefore offers an online community and the freely available software tools DesignSpark PCB for printed circuit boards development, DesignSpark Mechanical for mechanical design and DesignSpark Electrical for electrical design. Within the scope of a partnership with Protolabs, the world's leading provider of digital manufacturing solutions, RS offers support services in rapid prototyping and with the production of small series parts.

In the same vein is the latest partnership with the company Eurocircuits for manufacturing and assembly of prototype and low-volume PCBs.

FOR A BETTER WORLD IS OUR 2030 ACTION PLAN

promoting a sustainable and more inclusive world

1 PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABILITY

We develop sustainable processes, products and service solutions, which limit environmental impacts and meet the challenges of climate change.

2 PROMOTION OF EDUCATION AND INNOVATION

We build skills and promote solutions that improve lives.

3 STRENGTHENING OUR EMPLOYEES

We create a safe inclusive and dynamic culture in which our employees can develop and thrive.

4 DOING BUSINESS RESPONSIBLY

We ensure the highest ethical standards throughout our business operations and global value chain.



»For me, sustainability means taking responsibility. Everyone has an influence on the responsible use of our resources.

At RS, we involve our employees in this process. We form working groups with representatives from each area to develop ideas on how we can drive sustainability in our organisation. We have found that the employees really enjoy it very much and secondly, that this topic is very important to them.«

DIETLIND VINSON

Director Product & Supplier Management

3 questions for DEBBIE LENTZ, president ESG Solutions

MAKING AMAZING HAPPEN ...



What characterises sustainability at RS?

How do companies treat their employees, how strong is their bond? That is the basis of an ESG* culture. This is exactly where RS makes the difference, and we can be very proud of this as a whole group. This is reflected in the commitment, enthusiasm, and spontaneity with which so many projects with social or sustainable relevance are initiated directly by our employees. We feel good as RS employees, we are treated well and therefore we also want to give something back. However, ESG must not be limited to companies of this size. Ideally, the goals of the ESG initiative should be pursued by the entire industry.

How do you provide transparency for RS and clients?

With the »EU Action Plan on Sustainable Finance«, the EU reporting obligation on green financial indicators has come into force. However, the ESG reports serve the companies themselves the most. Without the reports, they run the risk of overlooking environmentally harmful production methods. But the challenge for most companies in terms of sustainability at the moment is that they still find it difficult to quantify their own status quo, for example their carbon footprint. However, we will soon be able to help our customers in making this visible.

What does it take to implement sustainability?

Changes can only be made when meaningful data regarding the problems are available. Only then can those responsible tackle them – from energy consumption in production to the CO₂ footprint of a homemaker. With a good database, supply chains can also be optimised, not only in terms of sustainability, but also in terms of humane production conditions. In this respect, we will also take our customers by the hand with the corresponding solutions.

The interview was conducted by Francette Kurt.

MEET & THINK WITH CHRISTIANE BÄTHIES ... FOR A BETTER WORLD!



Francette Kurt, Editorial Manager of NEXT LEVEL in conversation with Christiane Bähies, Management Assistant.

How can sustainability be better integrated into everyday business life? FOUR TIPS FROM CHRISTIANE BÄTHIES:

1. Communicate meaning and monetary benefits

- Survey the level of knowledge of the workforce
- Identify committed employees and win them over as motivators
- Develop operational and strategic measures together with them and implement projects together

2. Organise »Green Days«

- Communicate sustainability via interdisciplinary workshops
- Communicate easy-to-implement energy-saving tips, e.g. what it actually does to only ventilate briefly. You have to make something like this tangible and comprehensible and make an emotional impact. This way, employees are sensitised to these issues and become ambassadors for the company's goals.

3. Information creates motivation

A study by the Technical University of Berlin provides interesting information on the connection between the ecological lifestyle in private life and the corresponding corporate goals:

- 76 out of 100 sustainability-oriented and 44 per cent of »normal citizens« wanted an employer who was »actively committed to the environment and society«.
- Only 17 percent of both groups actually had this opportunity.

4. Sustainability must be lived

- Coaching by energy agencies. This way, savings of up to 6 % of a company's energy costs can be achieved (equivalent to the average annual consumption of 45 private households).

Let your mind wander, along the Main. It's so relaxing after work. It is precisely this feeling that made Christiane trade in her rented flat for a boat four years ago. Along the Main? That was no longer enough for her: now she simply lives on the Main.

When I arrive at the harbour, Christiane shows me the »treasures of the harbour« and what she makes from them, such as rocket pesto or spicy plum sauce and the courgettes she grows herself. And indeed, I recognise raised beds like the ones we also have on the roof terrace in the office. No wonder – Christiane initiated the raised beds project at RS. We sit between the boat and the summer kitchen, Christiane's office at home, on a wonderful summer terrace. Christiane strives to live sustainably. It is a matter of course for her to cycle 34 km to the office every day. It also goes without saying that she uses water sparingly, living on a ship. It is the same with food; Christiane avoids plastic packaging whenever possible. Everything possible is reused. She has been a pescetarian, or semi-veggie, for 25 years. She eats fish. It's better if you live by the water! Meat is not on her plate. At RS, Christiane Bähies is an active member of the Washing Machine Project Fundraising Team. Her real job: chief whisperer. She makes sure that there is »room to breathe and work« in the managing directors' calendars, watches their backs, keeps important secrets, is the interface between bosses and staff – always friendly but firm. The function of (you guessed it) assistant to the managing director requires a great deal of diplomatic skill and loyalty.

The trained legal clerk feels at home everywhere in the world – whether in Vietnam, which she once travelled to, or in Australia, her husband's home country. The nature lover also feels at home in any organisation – from the public prosecutor's office to global corporations: Christiane has already supported leaders of national institutions such as VDMA or even industrial giants like GE.

For the management assistant, corporate sustainability begins with the employees.

RS ON THE WAY TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMPANY

- Expansion of photovoltaics, e.g. roofing of parking areas with solar panels
- Lowering the room temperature
- Focus on electric vehicles
- Digital office (e.g. digital signature to avoid printing and scanning, digital personnel files, introduction of an electronic travel expense reporting tool)
- Bicycle leasing offers
- Reduction of return rates
- Job ticket
- CO₂ compensation: e.g. planting trees, bee hotel, orchard, raised beds, tree sponsorships
- 100% recyclable packaging material
- Free disposal and return offer for our customers for electrical appliances and batteries

THE VARIETY OFFERED

ELECTRONICS, POWER SUPPLY AND CONNECTORS



BY RS

We work with over 2,500 leading suppliers of electronics, automation and maintenance and offer you a unique product portfolio.

IT, TEST AND MEASUREMENT, SAFETY EQUIPMENT



THE VARIETY OFFERED

BY RS

We work with over 2,500 leading suppliers of electronics, automation and maintenance and offer you a unique product portfolio.

MECHANICAL COMPONENTS, TOOLS AND LABORATORY SUPPLIES

ELECTRICAL, AUTOMATION, CABLES



SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS AT RS



Würth Elektronik at RS

DESIGNING FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES CONSERVING RESOURCES, TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Würth Elektronik develops products of the present and the future and thus also shapes living spaces: the components form the basis for intelligent, environmentally friendly, resource and energy-saving technologies – from emission-free water taxis to the optimal wavelength mix in LED lighting, as in the example of vertical farming. Würth Elektronik is a family-owned company and is committed to future generations.

»In the age of digitalisation, electronics have a decisive influence on sustainability. Our electronic and electromechanical components are used in many promising products. Among other things, we are specifically concerned with the ingredients of our products, adapting our manufacturing processes in the sense of sustainability and optimising the transport of goods and commodities.«

ALEXANDER GERFER
CTO, Würth Elektronik eiSos Group

»Together with our employees, we have firmly anchored the topic of sustainability in our corporate spirit. This is also the case in our Repair Café, where we work together to find ways to make defective devices functional again, to conserve resources, and avoid waste. The necessary expertise is more than abundant in the company and there is also no shortage of electronic spare parts. Ideal conditions, therefore, to create and strengthen a new sustainability awareness internally as well.«

ANIK A WEGMANN
Environmental and Quality Engineer, Würth Elektronik eiSos



Proteus-II Bluetooth®
Low Energy 5.0
RS Order No.: 205-9928

MOBILE CONNECTIVITY REPLACEMENT FOR DISPLAYS

Displays are often used to show the status of devices, machines and factory equipment. A small monitor on a machine may look elegant, but it is not necessarily a sensible solution. Displays age faster in harsh conditions and are wasteful in applications where they only need to be read a few times a year. Better: wireless data retrieval.

Anyone who equips machines or industrial plants with liquid crystal displays should always consider whether such a display is still necessary today, especially since every person who comes to the machine today carries a device with much higher display quality. With the industrial-suited Bluetooth modules from Würth Elektronik, it is easy to replace displays and instead release information to an app for mobile devices.

Since no display is needed in the device itself, but instead the smart device is used for this, costs are significantly reduced and resources are conserved.

CRC SmartWasher® at RS

INNOVATIVE MICROBIAL TECHNOLOGY

The CRC SmartWasher® is a bioremediation-based parts cleaning system designed to safely clean dirty equipment parts during repair and maintenance operations. The system combines three essential components – the SmartWasher® parts cleaner, the OzzyJuice® cleaning fluid and the OzzyMat® filter, which contains a proprietary blend of microorganisms.

The OzzyJuice® cleans the parts and is heated and circulated by the SmartWasher®. The OzzyMat® releases microbes into the cleaning fluid where they break down and eat oils, greases, and carbon-based pollutants.

The SmartWasher® system harnesses the power of nature to deliver exceptional cleaning performance while avoiding the need to handle or dispose of hazardous waste. This makes it a safer choice over manual solvent or water-based parts cleaners.

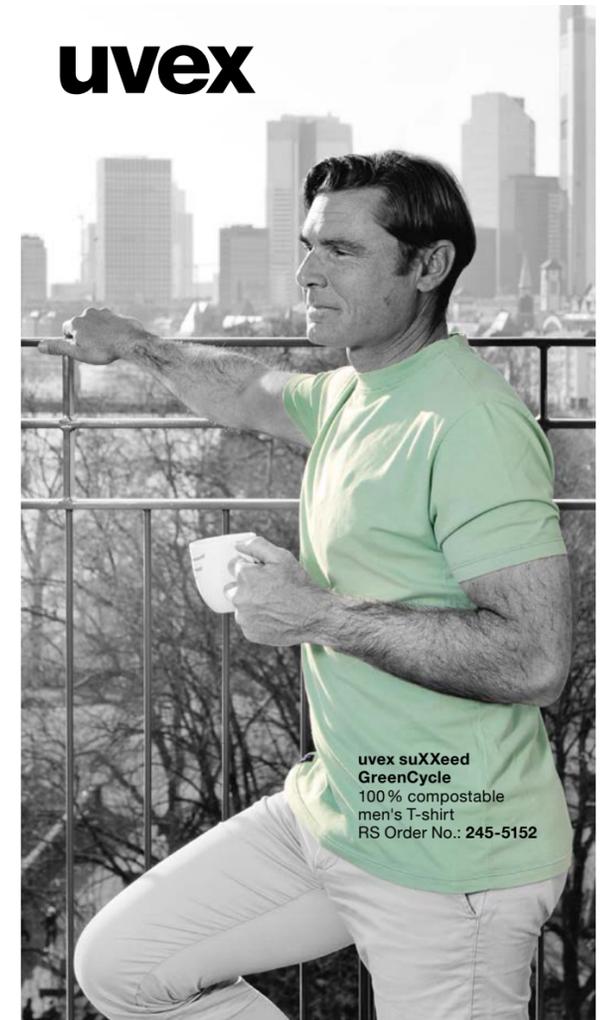
CRC parts washing device SW-23
RS Order No.: 217-2478



MOBILE PARTS CLEANER

The SW-23 mobile parts cleaner is suitable for any application due to its large sink, mobility and amazing features. It includes an angled brush with extra-long hose for hard-to-reach places and a customised trolley with tread for easier mobility.

uvex



uvex suXXeed
GreenCycle
100% compostable
men's T-shirt
RS Order No.: 245-5152

Sustainable workwear

Uvex protects people at work, sports, and leisure. protecting planet is the logical continuation of this mission when it comes to the responsible interaction with people, society, and nature. With protecting planet, uvex has created a label that provides maximum transparency and information regarding sustainability activities. Both products are completely compostable.



uvex suXXeed GreenCycle
100% compostable
unisex work shirt
RS Order No.: 245-5138



Video:
Sustainable workwear from uvex: RS beats the path towards sustainable fashion

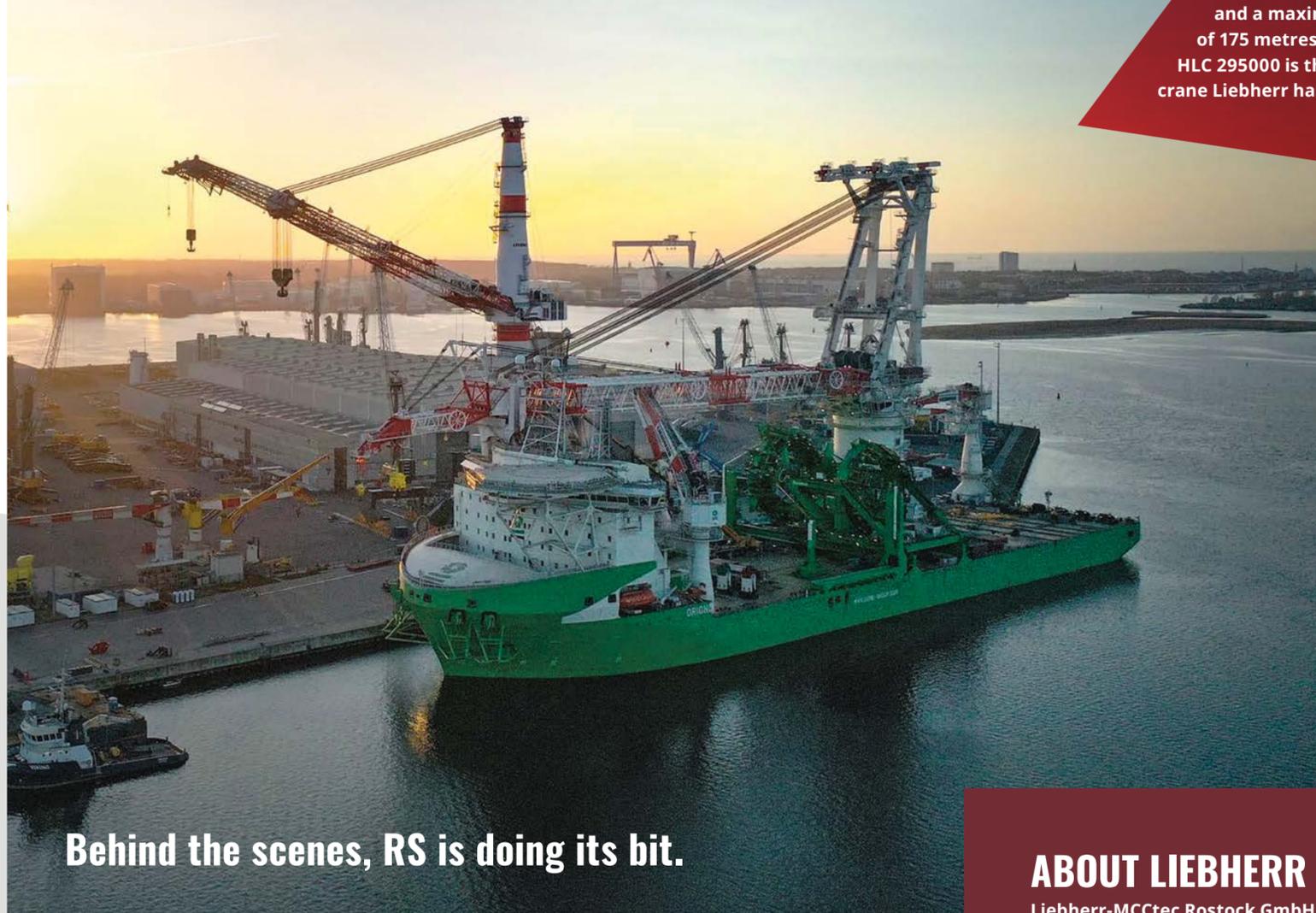
available at:



de.rs-online.com
at.rs-online.com
ch.rs-online.com

protecting people

AIMING HIGH FOR WIND POWER



Behind the scenes, RS is doing its bit.

In order to ensure a sustainable energy supply for present and future generations, significantly more and larger offshore wind turbines are being built. For the construction of these modern wind turbines, the lifting height is the decisive factor. In addition, there is a trend towards dismantling disused offshore oil and gas production facilities. This involves dismantling large and heavy parts on the open sea. And this is where Liebherr's new heavy-duty crane comes into play: with an almost unprecedented lifting capacity of up to 5,000 tonnes, the HLC 295000 from Liebherr's new HLC series can handle even the biggest jobs. By dismantling the old and building up the new energies, the HLC series can pro-

mote the energy turnaround »at both ends« of development for a more environmentally friendly future. The compact design makes the crane particularly well suited for the offshore market. The base column with a diameter of only 16.8 metres is unique on the market. The HLC 295000 thus requires little space on deck and offers compact handling for transport.

THE CRANE SETS SAIL

After the installation of the crane on the special ship Orion at the Rostock overseas port, the HLC 295000 completed all the planned test series as part of the commissioning. This means that the HLC 295000 is ready for offshore applications worldwide.

The crane will be used for the first time in the Arcadis Ost 1 wind farm in the German Baltic Sea. The 257-megawatt offshore wind farm is located northeast of the island of Rügen and will be equipped with what are currently the largest wind turbines in the world. »What we are witnessing here is indeed a memorable event. It shows in a fundamental way what can be achieved when people work closely together. With an extraordinary effort, our Liebherr team has brought this heavy-duty crane onto the ship. Side by side with competent and reliable partners like RS, we are proud today of what has been achieved here,« says Robert Pitschmann, Global Application Manager at Liebherr-MCCtec Rostock GmbH.

THE MEGACRANE IN NUMBERS

With a lifting capacity of up to 5,000 tonnes at a radius of 35 metres and a maximum lifting height of 175 metres above deck, the HLC 295000 is the largest offshore crane Liebherr has ever manufactured.

LIEBHERR AND RS

Liebherr has been a major RS customer for many years. Via the RS eProc solution, employees are directly integrated into the system and can see the complete RS product catalogue on their own interface. An important advantage for Franziska Mößlang (Strategic Buyer of the Liebherr Group) is that her colleagues have a perfect overview with minimal time expenditure. For procurement and requirements planning, they work closely with our maintenance, development, and education departments.



»Due to the wide range of strategic manufacturers that we offer, Liebherr makes use of our offer in almost all areas of product groups, but mainly in the areas of automation, cables, and connectors as well as in power supply and soldering technology. All 13 Liebherr sites I have had the pleasure of visiting so far are impressive. But especially the areas of construction machinery and crane construction in the marine sector are simply fantastic. The personal contact on site always helps to place the added value of RS and to correctly assess the needs of the customers. After all, business is also done among people! A very special focus for me personally is the cooperation with and in the vocational training. Supporting the educators with material and information, but also giving the young people something to work with, is something wonderful for me.«

MICHAEL ZILCH,
State-certified technician and
Corporate Account Manager at RS

ABOUT LIEBHERR

Liebherr-MCCtec Rostock GmbH is one of the leading European manufacturers of maritime handling equipment. The product range includes ship, mobile harbour, and offshore cranes. The product portfolio also includes reach stackers and components for container cranes. The Liebherr Group is a family-run technology company with a broadly diversified product range. The company is one of the world's largest manufacturers of construction machinery. However, it also offers high-quality products and services in many other areas. Today, the group comprises more than 140 companies on all continents. In 2021, it employed more than 49,000 people and generated a total consolidated turnover of over 11.6 billion euros. Liebherr was founded in 1949 in Kirchdorf an der Iller in Southern Germany. Since then, the employees have pursued the goal of convincing their customers with sophisticated solutions and contributing to technological progress.



Michael Zilch encounters Liebherr even on holiday when looking at oil rigs and offshore wind turbines. The modern technologies inspire the certified technician over and over again.

UNDER ONE ROOF

RS is an integrated global multichannel provider – and this is also reflected in our revised logo and design since autumn 2022.

The world is changing and so is RS. As a provider of product and service solutions for engineers, designers, and maintainers of industrial plants and operations, we are constantly expanding and deepening our portfolio of products and solutions to serve the ever-changing needs of our customers. Until recently, the components of our offering had different brand names, positionings, and logos, and did thus not reflect our brand essence as an integrated global multi-channel provider.

Therefore, we have further developed our brand: since 1 September 2022, all offerings are gathered under the umbrella of the RS Group and will be found under the name RS in the future. This can also be seen in our new email addresses, which will be [@rs-group.com](mailto:rs@rs-group.com) in the future. (But don't worry, you can still reach us via the old addresses).



»Under the roof of the RS Group we are bringing together all our offers and will be found in the future under the name RS.«

NADJA TROGISCH,
Marketing Director RS DACH

We are also visually modernised with our updated logo and new design concept. It uses the square of the RS logo as a window into the world of our customers, demonstrating unique thinking and ideas. In this way, our customers are not only at the centre of our daily activities, but also of our external presentation.

RS GROUP

RS INTEGRATED SUPPLY

RS INVENTORY SOLUTIONS

RS MAINTENANCE SOLUTIONS

RS PROCUREMENT SOLUTIONS

RS SAFETY SOLUTIONS

RS PRO

TRANSFORMATION IN TERMS OF ENERGY PRODUCTION

Current world events are driving the shift towards saving resources and transformation.



Solar systems are establishing themselves as the solution for energy production in developing countries and emerging markets. The shown system is located on the SEKEM farm in Wahat El-Bahariya in the western Egyptian desert.



RS SHOWROOM NOW ALSO DIGITALLY

Based on our Showtruck Max, we have created the digital RS showroom for you – a virtual tour through a selection of products and technologies from numerous suppliers, combined with innovative solutions from RS. You are also welcome to visit our showroom on site in Frankfurt am Main.

You can reach the RS Showroom via de.rs-online.com or the QR code:



Ralf Hellwig, Managing Director RS DACH, referred in this issue's editorial to current world events that are forcing us to save more resources and accelerate the transformation to greater sustainability.

But RS's 2030 Action Plan existed before the dramatic developments of 2022 and reflects our commitment to ESG – Environment, Social and Governance. The questions behind ESG (including: Where do goods and components come from? Under what conditions are they produced? How much energy could be saved?) are not only of concern to companies like RS, but also private individuals.

We are all in the same boat and only together will we be able to overcome the challenges that lie ahead. A good example is the rapid expansion of solar energy, the fastest growing energy technology in the world. Here, both

companies and private individuals can make their contribution. Solar panels work just as well on corporate roofs as they do on the roofs of single-family homes. They work particularly well in developing countries and emerging markets. That provides hope, because solar energy is probably the lowest emission form of energy.

The use of natural resources and the reduction of our energy footprint are the order of the day and the direction that is being taken all over the world.

For everyone to contribute actively to this, the German Federal Government has introduced a new energy label on 1 March 2021. The EU energy label has been in place since 1994. It is visibly emblazoned on all electrical appliances – from refrigerators to washing machines, TV sets to tumble dryers. The aim is to create an in-

centive to buy a particularly energy-efficient appliance. For with electrical appliances, not only the purchase price but also the electricity consumption is a significant cost factor.

At first glance, therefore, the energy efficiency class can be recognised by the letters from A to G and the matching colour bars on the basis of the new display. Green stands for the highest efficiency class, red for the lowest. Not all appliances have been re-labelled yet, but a start has been made – towards more and more independence in order to make a sustainable decision for the wallet and for the conservation of resources.

On the following pages, we present energy-efficient and sustainable product solutions from our own brand RS PRO.



RS PRO
Solar charge controller
RS Order No.: 905-4532

RS PRO
Polycrystalline solar module
RS Order No.: 904-6121

SHINING A LIGHT ON SOLAR

Solar is the world's fastest growing energy technology. As a tried and tested power source it is used around the world for numerous commercial, industrial, government and domestic applications. Most people will be familiar with the technology on the roofs of houses and commercial properties as well as in fields for solar farms. But there plenty of other diverse uses for solar ranging from powering water pumps in African villages, over weather stations in the Antarctic to satellites in space!

Solar comes into its own in remote locations where connection to main power supplies is impossible or too expensive. We are experiencing an increasing demand for solar power systems from equipment designers and manufacturers who have never previously considered an off-grid power system or have traditionally relied on stand-alone battery power for their equipment.

DETERMINING THE REQUIRED CAPACITIES

In looking at solar as a possible power source, the first task is to calculate the energy absorption of the system you want to run to power in watts. This will then help in specifying how much energy the battery (or batteries) can store and, in turn, what size of solar panel will be needed to replenish the 'stock' of energy in the battery in line with the pattern of use.

By way of example, the battery capacity is measured in Amp hours so with a 50Ah battery operating at 12v, the typical watt hours would be 600W. This means the battery could supply 600W for one hour, 300W for two hours or 30W for 10 hours. The higher the energy absorption, the faster the battery discharges.

A 100W solar panel would typically supply 600W per day based on 6 hours of sunshine on a summer's day. In winter this can drop to an hour, so 100W per day. When specifying a solar system, we recommend six to nine days of no solar charge in the winter to cover all eventualities. The RS PRO range of solar panels covers ranges from 5W to 150W.

To connect the panel to a battery, a charge controller has to be installed between the panel and the battery to regulate the voltage and to ensure the battery is not overcharged as well as preventing reverse feed from the

battery. A standard PWM charge controller (pulse width modulation), such as the 10Ah and 20Ah RS PRO charge controller, is a very effective option.

YIELD INCREASE VIA CHARGE CONTROLLER

Upgrading to charge controllers (multi power point tracking) further maximises the solar panel performance. Solar yield can increase by up to 20% over a standard charge controller as the MPPT artificially modifies the voltage from a solar panel system to actively match any battery's requirements. This means that whatever the weather conditions your panels will deliver maximum power with minimum electrical loss. Our 15Ah MPPT charge controller also has a Bluetooth app for you to monitor the performance of your panels and the state of charge in your battery from your smartphone.

As a company, we are continually looking for new and exciting ways to extend the usage of 'off-grid' solutions to power our everyday lives. RS shares that vision through its solar product range and we are proud to have the opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise through our ongoing partnership.

If you have any questions regarding **RS PRO** or would like a customised offer, our competent sales team and friendly customer service will be happy to assist you.

Get in touch!

DON'T LET AUXILIARY CONVERTERS IN EV CHARGING SYSTEMS BE AN AFTER-THOUGHT

EV charging stations are increasingly becoming a common sight in our day to day lives. According to Fortune Business Insights, the global EV charging station market is expected to gain momentum and grow from \$17.59 billion in 2021 to reach \$111.90 billion by 2028 with a CAGR of 30.26% between 2021 to 2028. There are two main parts to the EV charging stations: the main power trains and the control, communication, and surveillance systems which use auxiliary power converters (from 1W to 200W).

TODAY'S MARKETPLACE

There are currently three levels of EV chargers today:

AC Level 1: A simple but slow charge direct from domestic mains. Typically up to 3.7kW.

AC Level 2: Typically a domestic (daytime or night-time) installation up to 22kW, with communication control.

DC Fast Charge (DCFC): Delivered by roadside charge stations. By their nature, these have to be fast charging, and can be up to 400 kW.

AC Level 2 and DCFC systems have multiple auxiliary power requirements which need to be considered when designing the power system in the charger. For example, the main charger module uses IGBT/SiC transistor drivers, which will require control voltages. The control systems will run from 3V3 or 5V microcontrollers, communications systems require +/-12 V, contactors 12V or 24V, while cooling systems and display/interface systems both require 12/24V.

AUXILIARY POWER CONSIDERATIONS

Each of these systems are integral to the overall reliability of the charger. Any disruption in the cooling system or the consumer interface will render the system inoperable.

All power components, therefore, have to be reliable, meeting the environmental requirements and have a high MTBF (mean time before failure).

When choosing auxiliary power components bear in mind compatibility with global grid requirements; Europe, US and Japan all operate with different ac supplies. It is also important to consider voltage fluctuations; input voltages can easily exceed 264Vac. Therefore, RS PRO offers products that can be used up to 305 Vac.

WIDE TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS

The internal temperature of outdoor cabinets can easily reach 75 degrees Celsius. Because of this, auxiliary converters should use high quality power capacitors which operate across wide temperature fluctuations to avoid stresses or drying out. Another consideration is EMC. Components should have excellent radiation properties and susceptibility features to avoid affecting other components. All power components selected should also have good surge and transient responses, especially in areas that are subject to electrical storms. The outdoor chargers may be subject to high levels of moisture ingress. For this reason, key components which are either potted or conformally coated should be selected. It almost goes without saying that it is important to design these systems with low standby power to minimise energy consumption.

RS PRO offers a wide range of ac-dc and dc-dc converters to meet these demanding requirements. The portfolio covers a range of 1W to 320W and includes products with operating voltages up to 305 Vac, wide operating temperature ranges (from -40 to 105 degrees Celsius), conformal coating or potting as standard, and excellent EMC performance to meet all EV charge station auxiliary power requirements.



RS PRO switch-mode power supply
24V dc / 1.3A 30W
RS Order No.: 227-5217

RS PRO switch-mode power supply
24V dc / 14.621A 350W
RS Order No.: 233-6892



RS PRO –
your smart choice



»Price is what you pay.
Value is what you get.«
WARREN BUFFETT

RS PRO IS YOUR SMART CHOICE FOR LIGHTING PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING SOLUTIONS

The intelligently designed RS PRO LED luminaire range offers efficient light output at a highly cost-effective price.

Sustainability and climate action are at the heart of what we do, and we are particularly proud of the fact that our latest products are a perfect combination of energy efficient components and intelligent technology. This allows for amazing savings for users, not only due to an attractive purchase price, but also because of the long service life and low energy consumption during operation. RS PRO has thus found the perfect answer to the needs of the market.



»More and more people trust in the advantages of LED lamps. Unfortunately, many have already had negative experiences with products, which are inexpensive to buy, but ultimately prove to be the wrong choice due to inferior quality. With energy prices around the world already at record highs and global emissions rising at an unprecedented rate, it has become increasingly important to pay attention to quality. In the development of the new RS PRO luminaire series, special emphasis was placed on high-quality components that comply with the latest energy-related product regulations and European standards.«

JASON COVELL,
Senior Product Manager RS PRO



RS PRO LED panel light LED CCT3
RS Order No.: 231-8114



RS PRO LED floodlight
RS Order No.: 231-8135

The RS PRO range of products was designed to support the most efficient lighting solutions. Switching to LED lighting can reduce electricity consumption by up to 66%. LEDs with integrated sensors make it possible to automate and optimize light settings for different applications and provide the right light levels at the right time and in the right place. When it comes to upgrading your lighting to a more sustainable installation, we guarantee that all lighting has a longer lifespan and uses the latest LED technology. This also helps you decrease the number of luminaires and use less energy and accordingly only use energy when required.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

RS PRO products are all designed and manufactured in compliance with the latest industry standards and regulations. In addition, each luminaire is rigorously tested and inspected by leading RS engineers and provided with the RS PRO seal of quality.



BACKSTAGE STORIES

EPISODE #4 MISSION: SUSTAINABLE

Remote working at RS: Three colleagues dial into the conference from Frankfurt am Main, three are connected from Munich. But where is Natalia? She is enjoying the sun ... on her terrace among the flowers – but not by choice. She has locked herself out. Wonder if she will make it in time to present her news on sustainable products?

Natalia rattles at her door.

No problem, everyone is here now. Let's start with our new colleague. Dominik, would you introduce yourself briefly?

Hi guys ... Sorry, I'm late. I locked myself out. I came in through the garden gate and I'm now on the patio. Wait a minute, please.

Hello, I am Dominik Bursch, the new Sales Manager Electronics for the DACH region. Looking at the variety in our RS catalogue, we surely have an electronic solution for your problem, Natalia - Keyword »Keyless Entry«?

Paul participates from the Frankfurt office.

Heinz is in the office, Harald joins in from Munich.

Of course, I saw an interesting product from Würth Elektronik - the Proteus-I/-II Bluetooth modules are used in the development of hardware and software, e.g. in the field of access control.

Sang-Hun is also dialed in from Munich.

Ah, our products in use! Always exciting!

Proteus-II Bluetooth® Low Energy 5,0 (see p. 12)
RS Order No.: 205-9928

Yes, I think so too! The next topic is ESG. How far have we got with sustainable products?

Iryna just recently included the suXXeed series, uvex's 100% biologically compostable workwear. The products are now available in our shop.

Natalia was let in by the neighbour in the meantime.

Things are also moving forward with the delivery routes, and we have a number of manufacturers who will deliver to our modernised warehouse in Bad Hersfeld. We are thus reducing our CO2 footprint. Speaking of sustainability: Have you already seen our new raised garden beds on the terrace in the office? We will be able to cook here, soon!

RS PRO



YOUR SMART CHOICE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Discover energy-saving solutions such as LED lights and solar panels. Or alternative power sources like battery packs and UPS. RS PRO offers mobile heating solutions, safety signage and much more to support the efficiency of your business and the safety of your employees.

rspro.com

WELL PROTECTED FROM HEAD TO TOE



Quilted jacket
uvex SuXXeed
RS Order No.: 196-5303

Consolidate your orders and save time with our selection of leading brands. Over 12,000 different PPE articles available on

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