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Success Story

Stadtwerke Pirmasens

"We now have an online system that offers us a host of benefits. The switchboard now sees who is in the company and who is on holiday or on a business trip at all times. We were also able to significantly increase security with the newly organized access control."

Markward Krebs
Department head Electrical Information

www.stw-pirmasens.de
www.computime.de

A standard online system for time recording and access control ensures efficiency and security

Pirmasens public utility company provides the region not only with energy and water but also makes comprehensive services available to its customers as a modern service provider. This means that e.g. electricity customers can get advice free-of charge on e.g. saving energy, new device technology, device acquisition and regenerative energies. They can have a consumption analysis done or borrow electricity meters. Tenants are given assistance with consumption and ancillary costs statements. Natural gas / water and heating customers get heating consultations and device and functionality consulting on site. Home owners are informed about current regulations and specifications and assistance and subsidy programs and are supported in the installation of the meters and counters right down to the settlement directly with the tenants. The annual reading of the counters, the reading when a tenant has moved, help with the consumption statement and a 24-hour on-call service are part of the services offered as a matter of course by Pirmasens public utility company. Although today the transport companies in the town and a large leisure pool are part of the public utility company, the history of the public utility company began in 1874 with the establishment of a gas plant. This was followed five years later by the commissioning of a water works. However, the first electrical tram was commissioned as early as 1905. In 1910, a new electricity plant with two steam turbines and three boilers was set up, that was in service until 1978. In the Thirties, this was joined by an indoor swimming pool. The company thus grew continuously and adapted regularly to the new requirements of the time. In particular with regard to the opening of the electricity market and the liberalization in the gas sector and local public transport, the public utility company was first converted to a GmbH in 1994.
In 2001 there was then a change to a corporation structure with four companies: Stadtwerke Pirmasens Holding GmbH, Versorgungs GmbH, Verkehrs GmbH and Luft- und Badepark (PLUB) GmbH.

Stadtwerke, Pirmasens

Success Story

As a modern, municipal service company with 250 employees, Pirmasens public utility company has used a contact-free time recording and access control system since mid-2006. With the large number of existing time models, there was of course already a time recording system beforehand. But this was to be replaced. "We were looking for robust terminals that are not sensitive to malfunction and a flexible software that meets our requirements", explains Markward Krebs, the head of the Electrical Information department at Stadtwerke Pirmasens Versorgungs GmbH. After intensive market monitoring, those responsible opted for Kaba as the market leader and the Saarland-based software house Computime Ausweissysteme GmbH from Püttlingen. "Computime has its office near us and their Windows-based system convinced us with the functionalities, the simple operability and the superb price-performance ratio", explains Markward Krebs. In the summer of 2006, initially two Kaba Benzing time recording terminals of the type B-Net 93 20 were installed in the administrative building, as well as one device each in the swimming pool, water works, combined heat and power plant and in the workshop. LEGIC chips in the form of key tags are used as an identification medium. These LEGIC chips could be taken over from the old time recording. The Kaba terminals were mounted parallel to the old devices. The new software was parameterized with the required data (master data, time models, etc.). The switchover was done at the end of the month from one day to the next. In the evening, bookings were made in the old system; the next morning, the booking was already made at the new system. "The introduction went smoothly, we didn't have any problems", emphasizes Markward Krebs. Simultaneously with electronic time recording, an online access control was also introduced. The aim here was to increase the security in general and in particular to protect the EDP separately from unauthorized access. The entries to the company premises (barriers and a roller gate), the personnel entrance to the administrative building, the control center incl. server room of the energy supply and a further server room with readers were thus protected. "All chip users have access to the premises, all administrative employees to the building and all EDP employees to the server rooms", says head of department Krebs, explaining the different authorizations. After the company premises of Pirmasens public utility company had been well secured, the 14 scattered distributor stations for gas and water were also to be included in the access control system. "We wanted to increase the security here further and guarantee a 24-hour monitoring with alerting of the on-call service", explains Peter Zimmermann, deputy operations head of the department G. Certain employees of the public utility company and in part also employees of third-party companies also require access here. Whereas the stations were previously secured via IDS, mechatronic components, the so-called Kaba elolegic readers were now installed. These readers, operated as stand-alone components, fit in every standard in-wall socket. Through stepped electronics, they are sabotage-proof and correspondingly suited for installations outdoors. If the employee identifies himself as authorized at the readers, he or she can deactivate the alarm system and gain access to the stations. "We opted for it because the Kaba components don't need any cabling here and the system is already running smoothly in other parts of the public utility company", emphasizes Peter Zimmermann.

In-between times, Kaba components are also used in other areas for access security. Digital cylinders from Kaba have been securing the outer skin of the Municipal Bathing Park PLUB for the last half a year. "We were looking for a new economic system with regard to possible key loss. Mechatronic lock cylinders that can be operated with the same chip as our time recording lent themselves for this in an ideal manner", explains the head swimming instructor and head of operations at the PLUB, Emil Kelly. This meant that the previous lock cylinders were replaced by mechatronic digital cylinders. Since then, all 26 employees of the bathing park have identified themselves at the new cylinders before the doors open for them. The fire brigade also has a LEGIC chip to open the swimming pool in an emergency. "We can now operate our time recording system and the access control via the same system. If a chip gets lost, it can be locked immediately in the system without great effort", says Emil Kelly, describing some advantages of the system. "We now have an online system that offers us a host of benefits. The switchboard now sees who is in the company and who is on holiday or on a business trip at all times. All employees can now see their time balance via web browser, which alleviates the burden on our personnel department. We were also able to significantly increase security with the newly organized access control", adds Markward Krebs. Overall, Pirmasens public utility company is very satisfied with the system and the cooperation and support of Computime and Kaba.