

Regional Fire Brigade Association of Vorarlberg

First responders also need security



primion and team x install systems for Access control and Time recording in Feldkirch in Austria

They risk their lives to help save the lives of others. First responders, whether they are operating in the countryside, in the mountains, on the water or in the air, work permanently at the limit of what is possible. Their focus is on the safety of people who have got into danger. But the many people who work for the rescue services, both professionally and as volunteers, also need safety and security to give them a solid basis for their critical work.

Together with their long-term partner team x from the Austrian Vorarlberg,

primion Technology AG is ensuring that the Regional Fire Brigade Association in Feldkirch has functional and user-friendly working processes, through the deployment of their systems for Access control and Time recording, allowing the staff to concentrate on what they have to do.

The premises in Feldkirch are home to the Fire Brigade Education Centre with rooms for training, for recreation, for seminars and for office work. The Water rescue, Mountain rescue and Crisis intervention services are also

Modern elements that blend harmoniously into the existing environment, characterise the extensive renovation work that has been carried out on the Fire Brigade Education Centre in Feldkirch. Needless to say, art in architecture is an integral part of the work.

housed there. An extensive renovation programme has now been carried out on the 30 year old building.

The previous access control system had had its day and had not been fulfilling the requirements of a modern security system for some time. The State Building and Works Department initiated the tender



“We were no longer satisfied with the old system.”

*Günther Watzenegger
Vorarlberg Regional Fire Brigade Association Managing Director*

process that is usual in the case of projects involving public buildings.

And the decision was taken to go with primion's software and hardware solution. primion systems had already been successfully deployed for some time at the State Conservatoire.

The positive user experiences from this installation, which had also been installed to replace an existing legacy system, together with the card coding options, influenced the decision-making process.

To start with, 25 online readers and 25 offline cylinders were replaced, step-by-step, in three of the five buildings in Feldkirch.



Günther Watzenegger has been the Vorarlberg Regional Fire Brigade Association's Managing Director since 1994.

This had to be done without impacting on the day-to-day operations of the emergency services.

Further installations are planned for the other buildings.

The system delivers another special benefit. The existing LEGIC service ID badges were changed to the new LEGIC advant process and extended by the addition of extra segments. As a result, they can be used for the online and offline access control, for the new system but also for the old system that is still being used in part. It is planned to replace the old system with the innovative primion technology, going forward.

The cards are also used for cashless vending in the staff canteen. An interface to the catering company was programmed for the canteen billing and the employees' contributions are deducted automatically from their salary.

Florian Ronacher, 20, is carrying out his 12 month period of civilian service at the Fire Brigade Education Centre in Feldkirch and is one of the team who is responsible for the maintenance of the emergency vehicles.





“The conversion of the old system without interrupting the day-to-day operations was a challenge.”

*Michael Rüdissler
team x Managing Director*

As the fire service is a state-wide body, the badges are also valid for all applications in the 220 fire service buildings across Vorarlberg. In total, there are over 1,000 cards in use.

Time recording is a new topic in Feldkirch and the service ID badges can also be used to book at the DT 900 time recording terminals. The decision to go with the prime WebTime software was the logical consequence of the future goal of achieving a uniform system, with one common database. There had been discussions for some time about the introduction of a time recording system and now, new EU regulations about the tamper-proof

recording of working times, made its implementation necessary.

So far, the system just records arrival and departure bookings. Vacation requests are created through the employees' computers using Workflow scenarios. Talks are already under way about an expansion of the system to include other offices and additional features. The required cabling is already in place. Preparations have also been made for integration with the existing interfaces to wages and salary programmes. These have not yet been used however as until now, only salaries are being paid.

The positive feedback from working with the primion system is being monitored with interest within the organisational structure of the emergency services. At the end of the day, the Regional Fire Brigade Association's Education Centre is only one of many locations.



Equipment, vehicles and all other resources that are needed for the emergency services' work are protected against unauthorised access by the primion access control system. Michael Rüdissler, Managing Director of team x, inspects the stores with interest.

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