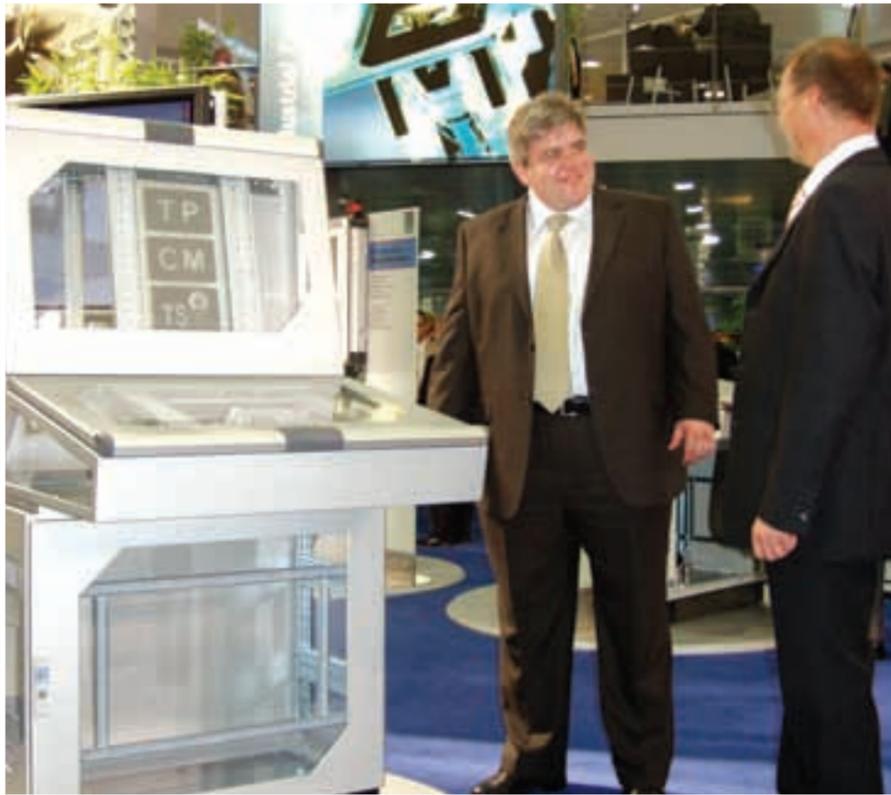


Hannover trade show Rittal displays 'Fascinating Future'



Rittal Systems Canadian president Oliver Obermeier (left) demonstrates the benefits of Rittal's Top Console system.

By Mike Edwards

HANNOVER, Germany – Rittal outlined the company's "Fascinating Future" initiative at the recent Hannover Fair 2007, in addition to introducing a host of new enclosure product technologies.

At Hannover Fair 2007, Rittal dedicated a third of its display space to future technologies (fascinating-future.com). As the theme name suggests, the initiative focuses on the future: digital factory; augmented reality; intelligent rack technologies with RFID; hygienic design solutions; and autonomous energy supplies and solutions inspired by bionics.

In collaboration with universities and research facilities, the initiative has been used, for example, to set up successful projects with various Fraunhofer Institutes and universities in Siegen,

Giessen, Freiburg and Darmstadt. The collaborations with universities have helped develop a range of new technologies for the Rittal product portfolio.

Under the name iRack, Rittal has been developing automatic detection and monitoring systems for subassemblies in enclosure systems using RFID (radio frequency identification). This technology uses radio signals to enable contact-free detection of units. In this case, Rittal uses RFID technology in conjunction with cutting-edge logistics management right into the rack. Subassemblies

inside a rack can be recorded, and assembly work during replacement and conversion, for example, can be monitored seamlessly. iRack monitors and keeps inventory of a complete server rack using RFID.

Another of Rittal's future concepts is the intelligent light, integrated LED surface lighting for glazed enclosure doors. This technology can be used to identify events in a rack – e.g. normal operating state, temperature exceeded – by the color of the glazed door. This way, the glazed door takes on the functionality of a traffic light.

Another development is the acoustic rack. Rittal and Darmstadt Technical University have joined forces to demonstrate how noise can be actively reduced for IT network and server enclosures. Piezo actuators counteract the resonance of enclosure parts, and their active attenuation can be used to reduce airborne and structure-borne sound by several dB(A). In other

words, Piezo elements combat the noise directly at the source, thus reducing the noise development of the installed equipment.

Other key announcements by Rittal in Hannover included:

- **Top Console system.** A modular, three-part design – the pedestals, desk units and consoles can be combined according to customer requirements. Overall, the new console systems are much more "streamlined" than their predecessors. At the same time, Rittal has increased the usable mounting surface. For example, the desk units provide 10% more mounting surface in the cover, which means there is significantly more space for components than in earlier models. In addition to the 800, 1200 and 1600 mm widths, Rittal now also offers a compact version with a width of 600 mm.

- **Ri4Power.** Rittal's integral system solution for fast and straightforward installation of low-voltage switchgear and for reliable operation of machinery and systems. The form-separated low-voltage distribution system Ri4Power Form 2-4 is the latest innovation to be added to the company's portfolio. This type-tested innovation creates much faster, more reliable, IEC-compliant switchgear with form separation up to form 4 and busbar

systems up to 1600 A.

- **AdvancedTCA (Advanced Telecommunications Computing Architecture).** Said to be the first comprehensive standard for previously proprietary platforms in the telecommunications sector. The new RiTCA generation of products includes complete standard system solutions for ATCA and MicroTCA in 2, 3, 4, 5, 12 and 13 U including shelf management, backplane (Full Mesh, Dual Star) and ventilation concept. For the micro-computing chassis, Rittal also offers the PicoTCA series.

- **Hygienic Design.** The Hygienic Design range from Rittal meets the requirements of the European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group as set out in Guideline 13. The new stainless steel housings are fitted with a forward-sloping roof set at an angle of 30° for fluid run-off and designed with no crevices or outer hinges where bacteria and other micro-organisms can take hold and multiply.

- **Global Service Power.** The name of Rittal's new strategic business unit announced by Rittal president Norbert Müller. The Herborn, Germany-based company is using its international network concept to take service to a new level. Müller explained the strategic concept: "We want to ensure integral customer benefits, in other words 'total benefit of usership.' This will allow us to expand our range of products quite considerably. Moreover, it will enable us to provide our customers with products and services in all phases of business development - on a global scale."

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Hygiene, telecom lines featured in exhibitor's booth



Heinz Schmitt, general manager, Rittal Food & Beverage Line, with the Rittal Hygienic Design range of products.

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