

Press release

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG

Working for a Fascinating Future

Rittal sets new benchmarks with innovative technologies for surface protection

Nanocoatings and aluminising are the highlights at the Hannover Fair.

Herborn/Hanover, 19th April 2004 – Everyone is talking about the future, Rittal is helping to shape it: "Fascinating Future" is the new company motto. A special initiative under this banner is being presented to the trade public within the framework of the Hannover Fair from 19th to 24th April 2004.

As one of the world's leading system suppliers for housing and enclosure technologies, Rittal is also a pioneer of modern and innovative technologies. Tomorrow's demands are to be recognised, analysed and incorporated into innovations. "Fascinating Future" is hereby to lay down new standards in terms of cost-effective quality and environmental awareness.

Constant development of new methods

Rittal is a trendsetter in modern technology packaging and specialises in innovative solutions for the protection of high-tech equipment. A unique diversity of ideas produces future-oriented housing and enclosure systems for all branches of industry and the whole IT and communications market. To be able to guarantee outstanding product quality also in the future, Rittal is constantly developing and testing new methods to enhance the durability, functionality and reliability of the materials used. In this way, today's products are already optimised to meet the practical demands of tomorrow's applications.

"Fascinating Future" is the banner above the new Rittal information platform. Publications of the latest research results are flanked by user reports and other articles documenting the successful implementation of new technologies in the more than 8,000 different Rittal products. After all, the future takes on many complexions. "Fascinating Future" lays down new standards in terms of cost-efficient quality and demonstrates how Rittal is also an important partner for the world market when it comes to research and development. For more details, visit: www.faszination-zukunft.com

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Special attention is paid to the topics nanocoatings and aluminising. With these innovative technologies, Rittal is developing new solutions addressing product quality, service life and reliability.

Surface refinement through nanocoatings

With the aid of nanocoatings, it is possible to realise a variety of surfaces with ideal protection properties, e.g. for outdoor telecommunications enclosures. With dirt-repellent, easy-to-clean, anti-fingerprint and anti-graffiti surfaces, this technology promises many new avenues of surface treatment with a maximum of benefits for the user.

On keyboards and touchscreen displays, for example, nanocoatings achieve an **anti-fingerprint effect**, for effective prevention of unsightly smears and for significantly easier cleaning. The materials are protected against long-term oxidation damage and the user is able to enjoy an appropriately clear image even after longer and intensive periods of use.

The **easy-to-clean surfaces** are similarly able to reduce soiling and to facilitate cleaning of the materials. Water and organic liquids are repelled and simply run off. Enclosures thus remain clean and protected also in the long term. With outdoor installations, general cleaning is even taken care of automatically by the rain. Thanks to **their anti-graffiti properties**, stubborn stains such as graffiti, which in the past called for intensive cleaning efforts, can now be washed away simply with a high-pressure hose.

Rittal is likewise treading new paths in the field of **system climate control**. The use of nanocoatings in the external circuits of heat exchangers, for example, guarantees a significant reduction in contamination and thus lasting and constantly high performance from the cooling units.

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Aluminising – a patent of the Friedhelm Loh Group

With the corrosion-protection and heat-resistance properties of aluminium coatings, as modern, future-oriented alloys, Rittal outdoor components, such as enclosure hinges and fittings, are also provided with reliable and comprehensive protection. Such corrosion protection and temperature resistance, together with an outstanding resistance to abrasive wear, opens up new horizons in surface treatment. Through integration of the company Aluminal into the Friedhelm Loh Group, it has been possible to establish a powerful network of know-how in the manufacturing of high-quality surface coatings.

The aluminium alloy which Rittal is already using for the hinges and fittings of outdoor enclosures distinguishes itself from other coatings by way of its new surface structures. When viewed under a scanning electron microscope, it reveals a dense, homogeneous surface structure without pores. This ensures perfect and resilient protection of the underlying material surface.

For ultimate material demands

The excellent chemical-physical and technological properties of the aluminium coating make it an ideal choice for demanding outdoor applications. As a future-oriented surface coating, aluminising satisfies a number of demands on materials which also play a role for Rittal. As used in the automobile industry, for example, it offers exemplary corrosion protection and heat resistance at temperatures up to 400 °C, especially in engine compartments. Saltwater resistance and the absence of ecologically critical heavy metals and other toxic

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substances make aluminium coatings an interesting alternative for offshore installations and the petrochemical industry. In electronics and electrical engineering, properties such as electrical conductivity, ductility, bonding strength, weldability and maximum contact corrosion resistance are demanded – and can be offered by aluminising. Further fields of application for such coatings are aerospace, transport engineering, medical equipment and special machine building. Extensive tests and investigations conducted by numerous renowned partners, including the Max Planck Institute, have confirmed the first-class properties of the material.

www.faszination-zukunft.com

With these new technologies, the responsible managers and engineers in Herborn are seeking to offer timely and competent answers to questions set to arise in the future. The "Fascinating Future" initiative can also be followed via its own dedicated Internet portal: www.faszination-zukunft.com



Rittal

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG, with headquarters in Herborn, Germany, has developed into a truly global player since its founding in 1961. With an off-the-shelf range of over 8,000 standard products, Rittal is one of the world's leading system suppliers for housing and enclosure technologies, and an in-demand solutions partner in all branches of industry and all segments of the IT and communications market. The Rittal product spectrum covers the fields industrial enclosures, electronic packaging, system climate control, power distribution and IT solutions, alongside a variety of unique outdoor solutions for traffic control systems and telecommunications.

Rittal stands for future-oriented and comprehensive solutions, service and consulting competence. With over 2,000 patents and 300 registered designs, Rittal is a global trendsetter in modern technology packaging. Uncompromising success

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stories are based on comprehensive know-how, permanent research and development, modern high-tech manufacturing methods and consistent quality management.

To ensure optimum supplies of the whole Rittal product range in all countries of the world, a total of 18 high-tech production facilities – since February 2004 also with an ultramodern factory in Shanghai, China – serve 47 subsidiaries and over 70 agencies across the globe. In Germany, 22 sales and distribution centres cater for the customers' every need with nationwide service. With over 8,000 employees worldwide, Rittal is the largest company of the Friedhelm Loh Group of Haiger, Germany. The whole group counts more than 10,000 employees.

Pictures:

Picture 1 (Blüte Nano 1): Permanent surface protection for outdoor enclosures and efficient system climate control. The perspectives of state-of-the-art nano-technology.

Picture 2 (Aluminierung_Scharnier): Neutralise contact corrosion, increase the service life, achieve bio-compatibility – infinite opportunities with the new aluminium alloy.

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