

Press release 15.01.2020

ZENNER at the E-world: hall 5, stand 5-208

Comprehensive solutions for the challenges of the digital 2020s

Saarbrücken, Essen. 2020 will be a key year for the entire energy and utility industry. Issues such as climate protection, the energy revolution or development of E-mobility are right at the top of the agenda for municipal utilities, energy suppliers, municipalities and the housing industry. The industry needs expert partners and innovative solutions to sustainably master the challenges ahead. The rollout of intelligent measurement systems (iMSys) starting in 2020 also represents another key milestone for the energy revolution in Germany, paving the way for numerous new solutions, services and 'grid-serving' applications (excess fed into public grid) for electric utility companies. As a result, municipal utilities and energy suppliers are firmly focusing on implementation of digital added value services via the smart meter gateway (SMGW).

For ZENNER and the entire Minol-ZENNER Group, E-world 2020 is all about comprehensive solutions and service offerings. With experience from almost 100 IoT projects under its belt, ZENNER will offer detailed insights into applied digitalisation, from cutting-edge measurement and system technology, digital platform and software solutions to smart data services. We will offer information on new solutions for the digital measuring point, the LoRa submetering portfolio, innovative smart city use cases with IoT, CLS applications for switching EEG (German Renewable Energies Act) systems or electric charging stations via SMGW as well as digital data services based on AI, such as analytical evaluations and data-driven applications from IoT data.

"Digitalisation and IoT have now reached the energy industry. The level of knowledge and implementation in the industry is significantly higher than a year ago" explains Sascha Schlosser, Managing Director at ZENNER. "Companies that now want to tackle and successfully carry out digitalisation or IoT projects in light of the upcoming smart meter rollout need to find the right partner. At E-world, we will be demonstrating why we are the ideal choice for this thanks to our experience, wide-ranging portfolio of solutions and the expertise we have amassed in the Minol-ZENNER Group."

Current areas of activity

The current areas of activity in municipal utilities, energy suppliers and municipalities have political and social backing. These include transparent and efficient energy consumption through smart metering, submetering and smart buildings, decentralised energy generation, use of renewable energy and e-mobility and sharing options. All of these help to accelerate the energy revolution and make neighbourhoods and cities climate neutral over the long term. Use of smart metering and smart city applications plays a key role in achieving the goals set out for the industry.

"Together, as the Minol-ZENNER Group, we can offer solutions for all of these areas of activity" explains Schlosser. "The smart meter rollout forms the infrastructural basis which will support many future digital added-value services and business models nationwide. Our CLS-capable ZENNER IoT gateway enables applications such as multi-utility readout of consumption meters or submetering, for example. Applications in the field of smart building, smart energy or e-mobility are therefore not only possible, they can also be securely implemented as defined by the regulators."

Thus, ZENNER will also be showcasing the "Minol Drive" e-mobility solution, developed by Minol and partner GP Joule Connect. This solution will also be shown in operation at E-world 2020 with a connection to the smart meter gateway. The new "Minol Drive" product package provides our customers in the housing industry with a comprehensive solution for installing, operating and billing electric charging stations and sharing concepts.

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The smart meter rollout begins

The iMSys rollout opens the door for processing such applications via the smart meter gateway (SMGW). For this purpose, the IoT gateway which wirelessly collects the data from the sensors is connected to the Controllable Local Systems (CLS) interface of the SMGW. The CLS interface on the SMGW is a highly-secure, technically standardised and state-regulated “data tunnel” which will be available nationwide following the rollout, to enable a number of utility applications and added-value services based on them. Typical CLS applications include remote readout of heat and water meters or switching of PV systems and energy storage.

Electric charging stations can also be controlled via the SMGW and the CLS gateway. “Thanks to DIN ISO/IEC 27001 certification and the associated CLS platform solution from Mannheim-based company, ZENNER Hessware GmbH, we are able to assume the role of the external market participant (aEMP) for customers and offer them an entire service from hardware, CLS management to data transfer in existing systems as an all-in-one service. “This means that municipal utilities can enter new business fields more quickly and easily. We want to be the trusted partner at your side” says Sebastian Heß, Managing Director at ZENNER Hessware.

Focusing on practical examples

Thanks to the amount and variety of IoT projects, the Minol-ZENNER Group possesses a unique wealth of experience. The number of IoT applications is steadily rising. Customers and interested parties can gain an idea of the opportunities by looking at some selected practical examples at the stand. For example, an intelligent measurement system (iMSys) combined with submetering measuring devices such as water and heat meters, heat cost allocators and smoke alarms will be on display.

To win trust you have to master your field and support your customers as partners in relation to the introduction of new technology in the face of increasingly complex requirements. This is why the Minol-ZENNER Group is taking a transparent approach to actual practical project work at the E-world in Essen. “Customers can get to know our team and see who develops products and manages projects on a daily basis.” explains Schlosser. “We offer a comprehensive overview of all the relevant areas, from project development and project management to the relevant backend systems and the sensors and measurement technology used.”

Network infrastructure and data analysis for the Internet of Things (IoT)

Minol ZENNER Connect GmbH, which was founded at the start of 2019, ensures that connectivity is available where it is needed. The company supports municipal utilities and municipalities with digitalisation – with advice, planning and operation of IoT networks. “We support companies who are solely concerned with using IoT connectivity, as well as those that want to purchase, install and maintain LoRaWAN® terminal devices and gateways themselves, for example via our new IoT SHOP Sensors & Solutions. In this case, we are focusing on all systems and processes in the background: i.e. operation of backend systems and the entire data management, from gateway management to the IoT application.” explains Marcus Kirchdörfer, Managing Director of Minol ZENNER Connect GmbH.

To do so, the Minol-ZENNER Group now operates the biggest LoRaWAN® network in Germany. The infrastructure now comprises over 6,000 IoT gateways, with which over 800,000 measuring devices and sensors communicate by means of LoRaWAN®.

Analytical models and evaluations, based on IoT data, offer a range of options for developing data-driven applications. Implementation of analytical solutions, such as detection of anomalies in IoT data with the aid of artificial intelligence and integration into existing systems and business processes, is an increasingly important aspect in which LEHMANN + PIONEERS DIGITAL GmbH (LPDG), also a member of the Minol-ZENNER Group, specialises.

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ZENNER Cloud solution platform

To centrally use, manage and control the array of data and processes from various applications, the Minol-ZENNER Group has created a uniform cloud architecture as a solution platform. It seamlessly combines the regulated application world with the non-regulated. The ZENNER Cloud can be used to implement both classical energy-related business models as well as innovative IoT applications.

This includes the application developed by Hamburg-based ZENNER IoT-Solutions for monitoring power transformers as well as the newly launched IoT workforce management solution “ELEMENT GO”. For users, this means less coordination is required and project management, installation and operation is more straightforward. ZENNER Cloud offers municipal utilities the ideal foundation for successfully positioning themselves as all-round municipal multi-utility service providers.

Smart measuring technology

ZENNER will also be presenting a host of new measuring technology products at the E-world. Digitalisation and the requirements for transparent consumption recording also increase the demands placed on measuring technology. Excellent precision and communication capabilities are in demand. To this end, ZENNER will be presenting innovative new products in the form of ultrasound measuring technology for the water and heat sectors, and more. Prototypes for new gas meters for the German market will also be on display in Essen. These were introduced at the gat | wat trade fair in Cologne in November 2019 with great success.

“Through the interplay of the individual special units and the use of cutting-edge technology, the Minol-Zenner Group is evolving, both in regard to our core business and in our new business fields, into a comprehensive digitalisation guide for our customers,” explains Alexander Lehmann, Partner of the Minol-ZENNER Group. “We are proud to present such a comprehensive and innovative solution portfolio and look forward to welcoming you to our stand.”

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ZENNER International GmbH & Co. KG, headquartered in Saarbrücken, develops, produces and distributes measurement technology for global markets. The portfolio includes residential, building and bulk water meters, gas meters and modern system technology such as radio and m-bus systems. Since 2016 ZENNER has also applied its digitalisation strategy to innovative system solutions based on Internet of Things (IoT) technology, from project development and measurement data recording and processing through to applications for the final user. Since May 1, 2017 the newly established ZENNER IoT Solutions GmbH, based in Hamburg, has also been part of the company group. ZENNER IoT Solutions GmbH specialises in the development of customer-specific IoT applications. The main clients of ZENNER are energy providers and public utilities but also industrial companies, wholesalers and meter-reading companies. ZENNER has production facilities in Europe, Asia and the USA and is represented in more than 30 locations around the world. The company was established in 1903 and has been part of the family-run company group Minol-ZENNER since 2005. Minol and ZENNER have more than 3,700 employees around the world. For more information see: www.zenner.com.

About the Minol-ZENNER Group

The family-run group of companies offers measuring equipment, billing services, IoT and e-mobility solutions for global markets. It has a global workforce of more than 3,700 and maintains a local presence through subsidiaries and distributors in more than 100 countries. Minol is a world-leading service provider for the real estate sector. Headquartered in Germany, in Leinfelden-Echterdingen, it maintains a nationwide presence through 20 branches. The company is helping the real estate sector to digitalize its processes and implement scenarios for the future such as smart home, smart care and smart city. Also headquartered in Germany, in Saarbrücken, ZENNER develops, produces and sells measuring equipment and system solutions based on Internet of Things technologies. It offers a full range of IoT services – from project development and the recording and processing of measurement data to end-user applications. The Minol-ZENNER Group also includes a number of other companies operating in areas such as IoT. Further information is available at www.minol.de/minol-zenner-gruppe.

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