

FENCING TIMES

UK & Ireland

2025, Issue 27

FenceX 2025
bigger than ever

AFI and AFA Best
Practice Day in
Shropshire



ROCKWOOL NOISTOP
improves gates



**FENCER, nice
to meet you**



As a fencer, you somehow always have to fight for your image. At least, that's the feeling we get from a lot of fencers. "I'm 'just' a fencer," they say. Or even worse: "just a 'simple' fencer."

There are three reasons for this. First: fencing isn't an official trade. At least, not a trade with a formal training program. A lot of fencers became fencers because they flunked out of training for something else or because they had no clue what they could even do.

Second: on the construction site, we're always the last ones. Nobody thinks about the fact that a fence still needs to go up. All the other builders are already done. The building's up, the garden's laid out, the flowerbeds are all set. And we fencers have to figure out how to work around those flowerbeds to get our materials to the right spot. Often, the street has to be dug up again to get electricity to the gate, and so on.

And the same goes for sales. That's reason number three. All the money's already been spent on the building, the garden, and everything else, so the fence can't cost anything. And that's no big deal, because it's 'just' a fence. In other words: if you come into our industry with a small ego, it's tough to make that ego grow, no matter how well you install or how successful your business is. Over and over, someone comes along with a hammer and puts a dent in your ego.

This gives fencers a unique character. If we can generalize for a sec: fencers solve their own problems, they don't need anyone for that. They improvise, or they'd rather work until the sun goes down than ask for help. Plus, they're stubborn. If you tell a fencer something works better another way, he won't believe you until you show him. Otherwise, he'll just do it the way he's been doing it for thirty years.

Fencers also don't care much for rules. If there's no other way, or if it's not too much extra effort, fine, they'll do it. But preferably not. Don't come to a fencer whining that he's not allowed to stand on a ladder above a certain height. Where he works, you often can't even get a cherry picker in. Besides, he's already learned the hard way that you'll fall eight meters if you don't hold on tight, so he's not gonna fall again. If you're from the labor inspection, go be important somewhere else with your clipboard and tie, because everything you learned in theory doesn't work in our practice.

Also, we work with heavy materials, and we're not hauling them any farther than we have to. If we can get to a spot with the installation van, we're not walking. If we have to drive through bushes, over a lawn, or through a flowerbed to get there, so be it. If someone has a problem with that, they should've planned better: put up the fence first, then do the garden.

And then there's our special way of dealing with customers. Customers aren't fencers, so they have no idea what they're talking about. If someone's not happy with their fence, they first get a polite explanation that the fence was installed as well, as nicely, and as sturdy as possible given the situation, and that nobody could've done it better. If they still keep complaining after that, they're a jerk, and we'll happily tell them that to their face. And if someone's so unhappy they don't pay their bill, well screw them – we'll just rip the fence out of the ground and sell it to someone else.

On the flip side, though: if you do appreciate the fencer's work and craftsmanship, like by throwing some sausages on the grill for him, he'll do anything for you. Need a bit of concrete chipped away? Or is the fence three meters longer than on the blueprint? No problem, we'll



sort it out quick, without moaning about extra work or costs.

Fencers are straightforward. They've got both feet on the ground, and what you see is what you get, but there's a rough edge to them.

We often romanticize that rough edge in this magazine. It's something that defines the fencing industry and also something that connects fencers. And for us, it's a beautiful thing: when you're among fencers, you can say what you think without being politically correct or

beating around the bush. You always get an honest, unfiltered answer: if someone disagrees with you, you'll hear it right away.

(Like with everything, the examples here apply more to some fencers than others. We love to generalize to make a point, but please don't feel called out if something doesn't apply to you.)

There are also fencers who try to distance themselves from that cowboy image. You have to, especially once you get bigger. If you want to land a job with



Shell, you can't get away with *"forget the cherry picker, we've got a ladder."* You need a stack of certificates just to set foot on the site.

We really appreciate it when fencers make an effort to be taken seriously. That sometimes gets overshadowed because the focus is often on that rough cowboy edge, but it deserves a mention. They take courses, get certificates, install safe gates, follow labor inspection rules, train their installers in customer service, join trade associations, never do a job under the table (lol), and so on.

Our industry and our craft deserve respect. Building fences isn't easy. The fact that we fencers learn it ourselves, from each other, instead of at a university, doesn't make us dumb or losers. Try doing what we do. Good luck.

But there are also fencers who overdo it. They're so desperate to prove they're not cowboys that they present themselves fancier than a notary or a lawyer. They strut around in expensive suits and talk all posh, making the customer think they just had lunch with the king and are off to golf with the head of the national bank. That always gives us a bit of a rash. A farmer's a farmer to us. You can put a tie on him and call him an agricultural entrepreneur, but he's still shoveling manure.

It's not jealousy, of course. We wish all our readers an Armani or Prada suit, a nice walnut desk in the office, and a classic Porsche in the driveway. Hard work should be rewarded. But don't forget where you came from and keep both feet on the ground, because a fence is still a fence. ■



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2025

If you're a fencing installer with a little passion for the job, you can't live without Fencing Times.

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UK Fencing Awards

afi

Lifetime Achievement Award
John Smith

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Have you got a tip for us? Or taken part in something great that you want to share with the market? Spotted a beautiful fence or a beautiful gate? Or perhaps a really ugly fence, which you turned into a great photo? Let us know and share it with your colleagues in the sector.



Ornaments Deluxe



We came across this fence ourselves when we made a stopover in Zurich on our way back from Italy. It surrounds the city hall there. It appears to be entirely wrought iron. Who still makes something like this? We don't know of any fence factory where you could buy a fence

like this. An ornamental blacksmith must have had a great job with this one. They used a distinctive technique, with struts instead of intermediate posts. Probably so the fence looks like a cohesive whole. This results in a fence line that's not perfectly straight, but the

creator of this fence is forgiven for that – the remarkable three-dimensional ornaments on top make up for it. We're curious about the story behind this fence. If any of our readers know more, please let us know at fencepost@fencingtimes.com. ■



Zaungasse

Nico Schake from AOS Stahl sent us this street sign. Zaungasse means 'Fence Alley'. We thought, "Wow, a fence alley, how special, you don't see that often." Naturally, we immediately wondered where this could be. Nico didn't mention it, and the photo upload tool on our website doesn't have a field for comments. That's been on the to-do list for over a year, but we haven't gotten around to it. Anyway, we thought, "Let's google it, it can't be that hard." But guess what? There are no fewer than five fence alleys in Germany: in Siegen, Engelsbrand, Nuremberg, Roth, and Leutkirch im Allgäu. There's also a Zaubheimer Straße in Koblenz and Zaunstraßen (Fencing Street) in Netphen-Deuz, Lindenthal, and Haiger-Fellerdilln. Thanks, Nico, we've learned something new!

Speaking of street names: are there any readers out there who've had a street named after them or their company? Or something related to fencing? The German fencing wholesaler Bläser used to be located on the Wilhelm-Bläser-Straße, mesh panel manufacturer Becker is on the August-Becker-Straße. Then, of course, there's Heras at Hekdam 1 (Fence Dam), and the Austrian sliding gate manufacturers Libero and Holler are at Liberogasse (Libero Alley) and Schlossallee (Lock Boulevard (or Castle Boulevard, but that's boring)), respectively. If any readers know of a fencing-related street or alley, let us know at fencepost@fencingtimes.com. We'd love to hear about it! ■

Ornament

Marco Herzog, a representative from Hadra and one of our regular contributors, sent us this ornament. He didn't mention where he saw it or what the rest of the fence looked like, but it's a beautiful ornament and perfectly suited for this photo section. Thanks for submitting, Marco! ■





Stacked Stones

Florian Effertz from Tor- & Zaunanlagen Effert in Krefeld was on vacation in Sicily, where he came across this artwork made of corten steel and stacked stones. It's one of the most extraordinary gates we've ever seen here at the editorial office. All over the world, wherever stones are abundant in nature, you find walls made of stacked stones. Stacking stones is a craft in itself, especially if you want your wall to be perfectly aligned, uniformly high, and sturdy

enough not to topple over in the first storm. But the builders of this gate went a step further: they also figured out a way to keep the stones in place while the gate moves. At least, that must be the case, because we can't believe the stones in this gate are all loose. And on top of that, the gate is beautifully straight at the top—you could lay a ruler along it. Thanks for the photos, Flo! ■



Photo of the Month

Sunset Gate

Hilko Homan from Van Rooijen Hekwerken in Voorhout, the Netherlands, installed a gate with ditch fans at the entrance to a pasture in the Dutch polder and then took this photo during sunset. It's a very ordinary gate and a very ordinary pasture, but it makes for a beautiful picture. The Locinox construction radio is coming to Voorhout, Hilko! Thanks for submitting. ■



Would you also like to win a Locinox radio? Send us your most beautiful project! Do not be too modest, do not think your picture will never win anyway. Every project can be beautiful for its own reason, or a source of inspiration for fellow fencers. Send your photo to fencepost@fencingtimes.com.



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Industry

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Fencing Times The NEWS

UK & Ireland

GENERATIONAL TRANSITION AT BERLEMANN

NEUENKIRCHEN, Germany

Berlemann Torbau, a sliding gate manufacturer that is represented in the UK by Inova Gates from Draperstown in Northern Ireland, has undergone a generational transition. Founder Klaus Berlemann, who led the company for nearly fifty years, has handed over full management to his sons Nikolaus and Sam. Klaus began the company in 1976 in a repurposed cowshed in Telgte. Just five years later, he developed a fully cantilevered gate system without rails or rollers — a unique innovation at the time. Growing demand led to several relocations, with the company

settling in Neuenkirchen in the nineties. Today, Berlemann Torbau employs 150 people and operates on a 25,000 square metre production site, with a new office building added in early 2024.


The company's signature sliding gates, marketed under the name Inova, feature a distinctive internal drive mechanism that received several awards in the nineties. While sliding gates made of steel and aluminium remain the core business, Berlemann has grown into a full systems provider. Its product range now includes swing gates, turnstiles, detection systems, gabions and

fencing. Since 2019, fence posts have been produced in-house using a fully automated line that transforms steel strip into coated posts in a single flow.

Klaus Berlemann considers the company his life's work and credits its success to his employees and customers. His son Nikolaus has already served as managing director for over fifteen years, while Sam has led the detection division and now joins as co-director. Together, the brothers plan to continue the company's legacy, aiming to maintain Berlemann's reputation as a premium supplier and trusted partner. ■



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Independent 25-year test on Postsaver protected stakes

STAUNTON, Great Britain – In April, the Building Research Establishment (BRE), completed a 25-year independent field test. The test compared wooden stakes dip treated with a light preservative to those dip treated with the same preservative and the additional protection of Postsaver's rot protection sleeves. The stakes fitted with Postsaver sleeves showed no signs of rot.

Postsaver was founded in 1994 by Richard and Jim George, two brothers from Gloucestershire, when Richard had to replace the wooden posts of his new fence after only a short time. The brothers used their experience in the plastics industry to create a dual-layer thermoplastic

sleeve that slides over, and heat shrinks to the post, sealing in preservatives and locking out decay – which the company still supplies today.

The test was conducted by the BRE. "It is Europe's largest independent timber testing organization," says Richard George. "They used their Notional Mean Decay Rating (NMDR) system, which is based on the visual inspection method from EN252 to assess performance. EN252 is the European standard for evaluating the effectiveness of wood preservatives in ground contact. The stakes, driven into the ground in April of 2000, were treated with a light water-based wood preservative. The stakes without the additional

protection from Postsaver began to rot after just three years. The stakes fitted with Postsaver sleeves still show no signs of failure after 25-years."

"This is an important milestone for us," George continues. "Seeing our product perform so well under long-term, independent scrutiny confirms everything we have worked towards since our inception. It proves that the combination of preservative and a Postsaver rot protection sleeve significantly extends the lifespan of wooden posts. We believe these findings will open new doors for collaboration within the wood protection industry and that wood will be seen more as a sustainable and long-lasting building material." ■



BRE

The Building Research Establishment (BRE) is a centre of building science in the United Kingdom. It is a former UK government national laboratory that was privatised in 1997. BRE provides research, advice, training, testing, certification and standards for both public and private sector organisations in the UK and abroad.





Hörmann Launches Plug and Play Bollard

STEINHAGEN, Germany – Hörmann, originally a manufacturer of garage doors but now also a producer of gates, drives, and smart-home systems, is launching a new automatic bollard for the residential market. Named the A114, it comes with a foundation box that ensures easy and quick installation.

"You only need to dig a hole," says product manager Renzo Stancanelli. "Once the foundation box with the bollard is in place, you just connect the power and install the control unit. We supply a 15-meter cable for this. It's so simple that the bollard can be sold without installation, and the customer can install it themselves."

The bollard has a diameter of 114 millimeters and is made of brushed stainless steel. It features an electromechanical drive and is designed for approximately 100 cycles per day. In case of a power outage, it can be manually lowered. Optionally, the new bollard can

be equipped with LED lighting and an emergency battery. The A114 comes standard with a handheld transmitter, but it can also be operated via Bluetooth or the Hörmann Cloud Unit. Customers can choose between two heights: 600 and 800 millimeters. ■

Assa Abloy acquires Pedestal Pro

STOCKHOLM, Sweden – The Swedish multinational Assa Abloy is acquiring the American company Pedestal Pro, a manufacturer primarily of access control pedestals and bollards.

"I am delighted to welcome Pedestal Pro to the group," says CEO Nico Delvaux. "This acquisition aligns with our strategy to strengthen our position in mature markets by adding complementary products and solutions to our core business."

Lucas Boselli, director of the American division, adds: *"Pedestal Pro is an established innovator*

that seamlessly integrates design, architectural elements, and access control technology. Their product portfolio enhances our offering of electromechanical solutions and solidifies our position as the preferred partner for access control equipment manufacturers, system integrators, and security professionals."

Pedestal Pro was founded in 2002 and employs approximately 50 people. Its headquarters and factory are located in Lindon, Utah. The company's revenue was approximately 11 million dollars in 2024. ■



Let burglary statistics boost sales

We received a press release from the German trade association of lock manufacturers, the FVSB, about the number of burglaries in 2024. There was little difference compared to 2023, so no spectacular change in trend is underway. But what really surprised us was the total number of burglary attempts in Germany. There were more than 78,000. And about half of them succeed. That's more than 200 burglary attempts per day. Every 7 minutes, a burglary takes place somewhere in Germany. And those are just residential burglaries. Burglaries at schools, sports clubs, and businesses are on top of that.

We asked ChatGPT to check if things were different in other countries. They were: when we recalculate the statistics to the number of burglaries per 1 million inhabitants, we see significant differences. For us, this can only mean that each country measures and records data differently. We can't imagine that German burglars are three times lazier than their Belgian counterparts. But what's consistent everywhere is that the figures in every country are much higher than we thought. In France and Great Britain, a burglary even happens every 3 minutes.

For society, this is terrible. As a citizen, it's not a nice feeling to live in a country where so many burglaries occur. But for sellers in our industry, these numbers are, of course, golden. They fuel fear. And fear, alongside desire, is always the biggest driver for customers to make a purchase.

And we, the fencing industry, have the ideal product to keep burglars out. Video cameras are nice, but they don't stop anyone. A more expensive lock on the door

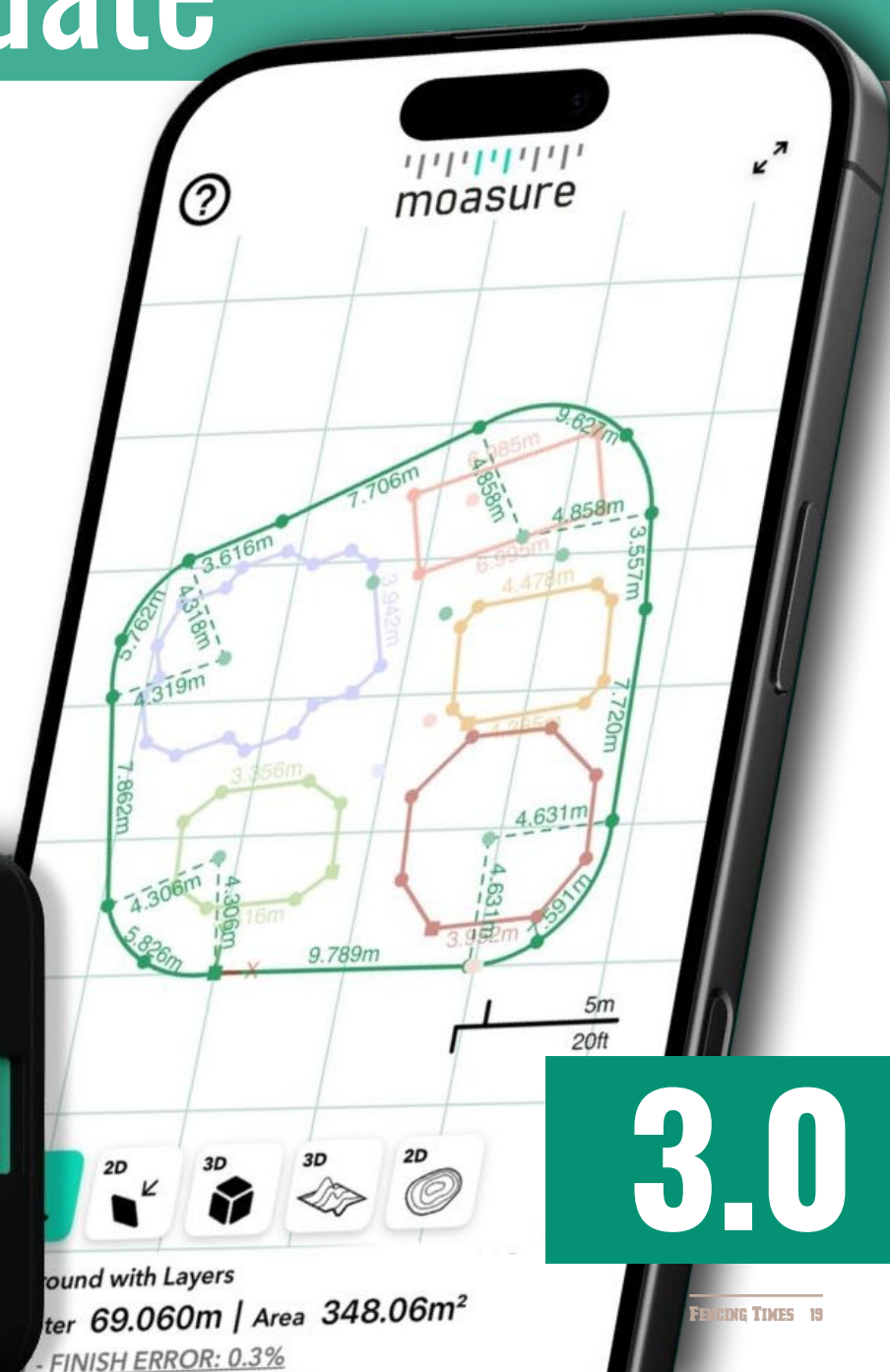


is also nice, but it doesn't help if the burglar can simply smash a window. The best way to ensure a burglar doesn't get in is to stop them at the outer boundary of the property. With a fence or a gate. Every customer understands that. That's why we've listed the burglary figures for all the countries where Fencing Times is published, so you can pick out the daily number of attempts in your country and use them in sales: it might just convince a customer or two. ■

Country Land	Burglary Attempts Einbruchversuche Inbraakpogingen 2024	Attempts / Versuche / Pogingen per 1M	Attempts per day Versuche pro Tag Pogingen per dag	Minutes between 2 attempts Min zwischen 2 Versuchen Minuten tussen 2 pogingen
Luxembourg	1 900	6333	5	277
Belgium	37 460	3175	103	14
France	208 000	3137	570	3
Switzerland	26 500	2944	73	20
Great Britain	190 000	2758	521	3
Netherlands	22 035	2448	60	24
Ireland	8 800	1630	24	60
Austria	14 500	1611	40	36
Germany	78 400	926	215	7

MOASURE app receives major update

The Moasure app, associated with the eponymous measurement tool, has undergone a significant update this winter. Measurement points can now be labeled or ignored during the measuring process, different measurement paths can have distinct colors, elevation differences can be displayed in 3D, and exporting to CAD software now includes more details.



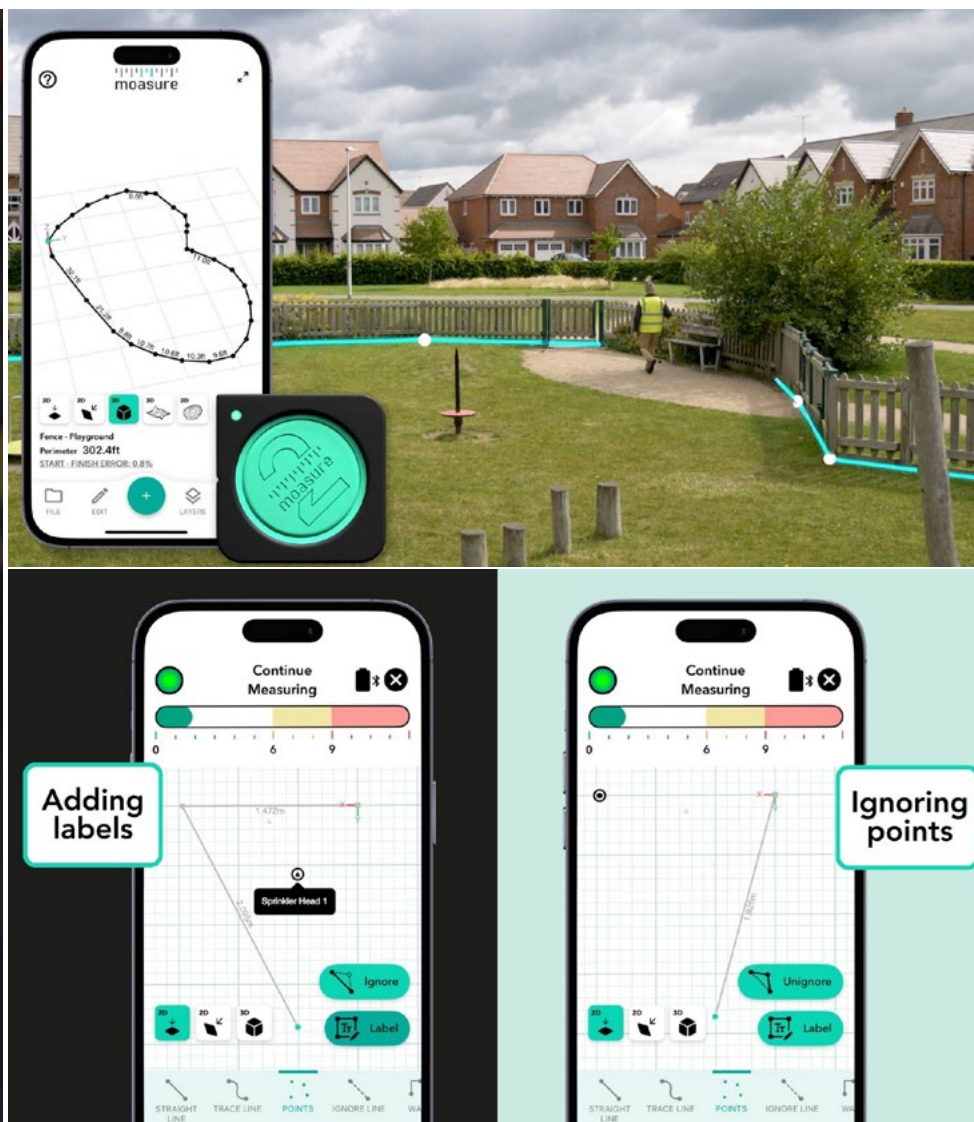
3.0



Barry Fitzgerald
Educator
at Moasure

3.0

"Our development team works non-stop on improvements for the Moasure app," says Barry Fitzgerald, educator at Moasure. "We listen to customer feedback and combine it with new insights to elevate the app to a higher level. This 3.0 update is a direct result of that process. We want to make measuring easier and faster but also more intuitive."

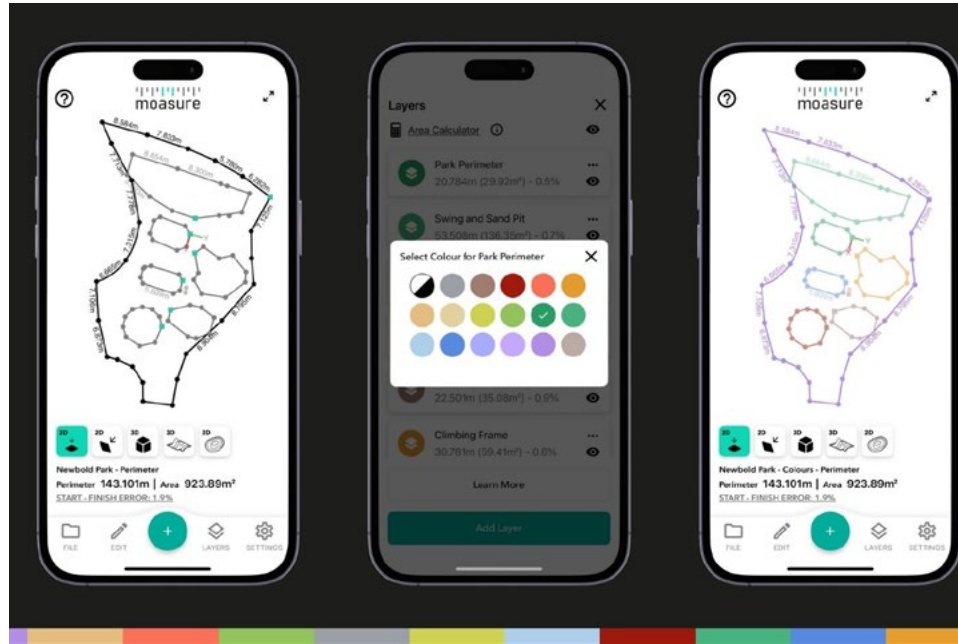


LABELING

One of the most requested features is the ability to label and ignore measurement points during measuring. “This means you don’t have to do any post-processing or make notes on your hand,” says Fitzgerald. “You can directly label corner posts, wall connections, or curbs as you walk along the fence line. This makes measuring much more efficient. You can mark utilities, which can be helpful avoiding them during the work, or knowing where to hand dig. Measurement points that are not relevant, such as an obstacle, can be ignored immediately. This prevents you from having to go back later to correct data. It’s a small change with a significant impact. The feature allows for faster and more accurate mapping of complex terrain.”

COLOR LAYERS

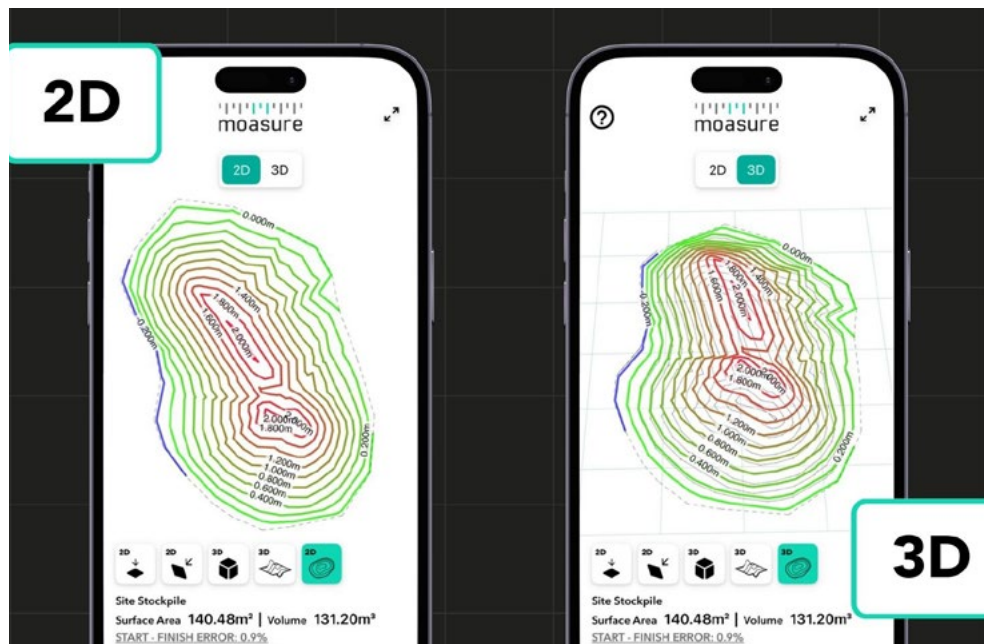
With the introduction of color layers, organizing measurement data becomes visually simple according to Fitzgerald: "Each layer gets its own color, so you can instantly see what's what," he says. "This is ideal, for example, if the fence does not sit exactly on the perimeter. You can measure the fence line and the perimeter line separately and assign each a different color. You can measure an existing foundation in a third color so that you know later where you need posts on a base plate. You can give gates their own color, or existing fencing that you need to connect to, and so on. The drawings become much clearer. Additionally, it makes it easier to check and present your own work."

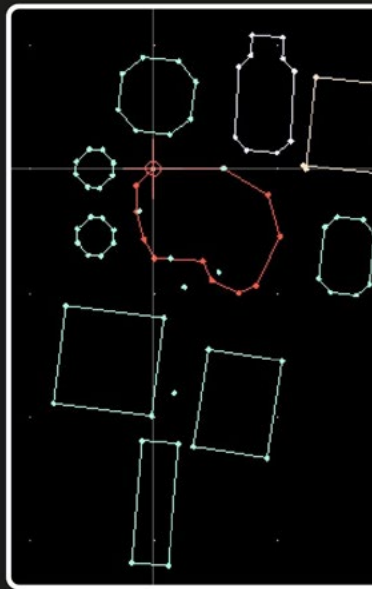
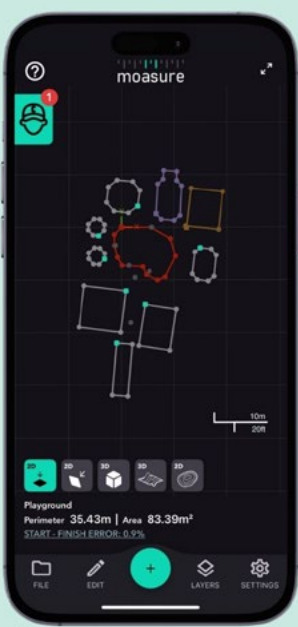


MOASURE 3.0

3D DISPLAY

The new 3D contour display changes how elevation differences are visualized. "Previously, you had to interpret contours as flat data, now you see the terrain as if you were walking over it," says Fitzgerald. Users can switch between 2D and 3D projections to see elevation differences like hills or valleys directly. "This is especially valuable for terrains with complex elevation profiles, providing a more complete picture of your location. For fence builders, this means they can better plan how fences will run over uneven terrain, without surprises during installation. The feature works very intuitively."



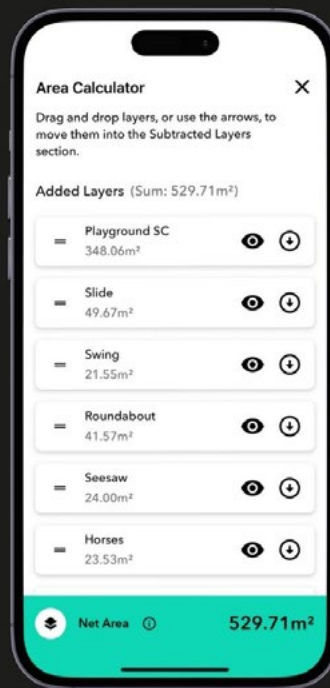


CAD EXPORT

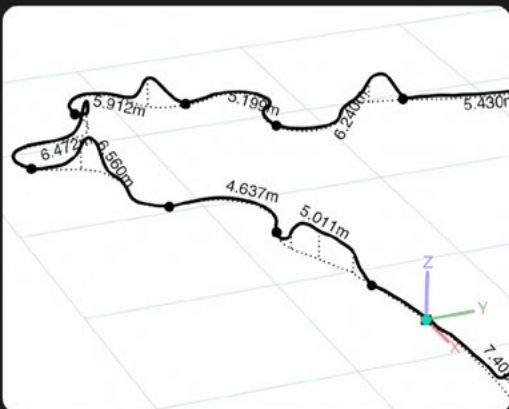
The update makes exporting to CAD software more detailed. "Points are now exported as DXF point objects, not just as lines," says Fitzgerald. "Additionally, color layers from the app are carried over. Ignored points can be exported as a separate layer with an on/off toggle in the software. This makes your workflow much more efficient. For fence builders working with Solidworks or Autocad, this means they can create more precise designs and share them with architects or engineers."

AND MORE

In addition to the main features, Moasure 3.0 introduces an area calculator, a scale and a grid for greater precision in 2D measurements. Users can adjust the grid for a tight or detailed display. A new volume toggle offers flexible options such as 'lowest point-plane' for pits or 'perimeter-plane' for hills. Multi-layered surfaces allow for separation of perimeter and height points and viewing in 3D. A new theme with light and dark mode provides a fresh look. Background images in 2D contour view help to link measurements to the actual location, and point-to-point PDF export offers an additional way to share data. The update also features Smooth Z, which filters small variations in height, and Actual Z, which shows the exact measurement route. This gives you extra control over the data. The 3.0 app is available for free via the App Store and Google Play and is compatible with the Moasure One, Moasure 2 and Moasure 2 Pro devices. ■



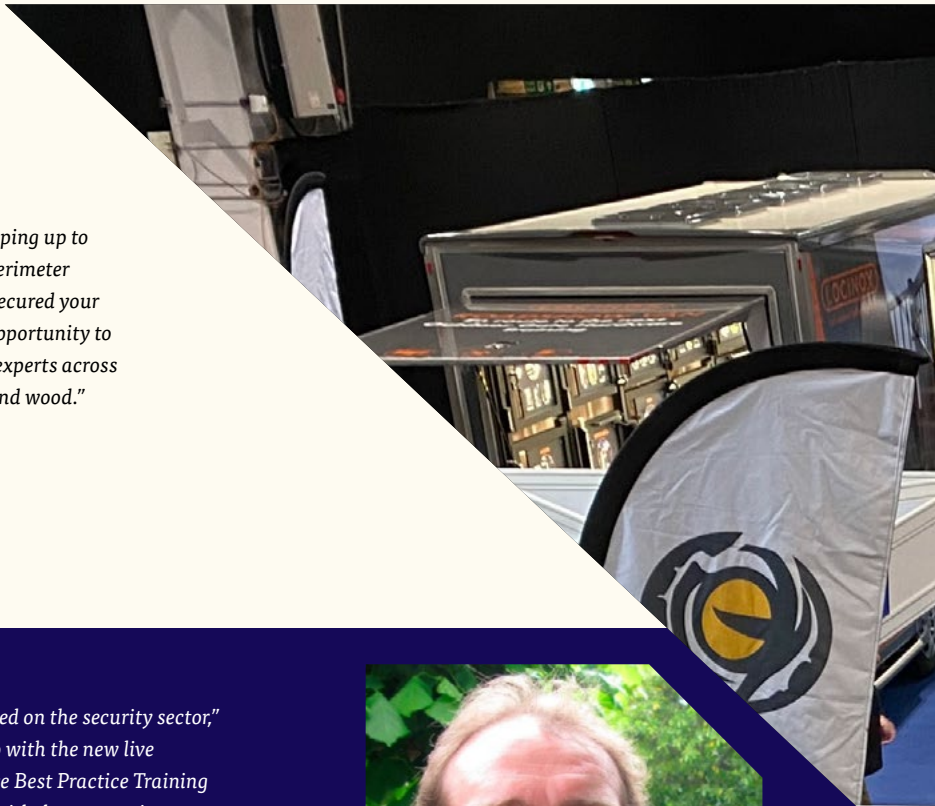
Actual Z



FENCEX 2025

Fencex, the fencing trade show in the UK that takes place every two years in October at the NAEC grounds in Stoneleigh, just outside Coventry, will be bigger than ever this year. For the first time, the fair is being organised by the Association of Fencing Industries, which took over the shares from founder Ian Law in 2023.

"With the majority of stands already sold, this year's show is shaping up to be a must-attend event for anyone involved in the fencing and perimeter security industries," says AFI boss Pete Clark. "If you haven't secured your place yet, now is the time to do so. FenceX offers an unrivalled opportunity to network, source new products, and gain valuable insights from experts across the industry, in every field from gates, barriers, concrete, metal and wood."



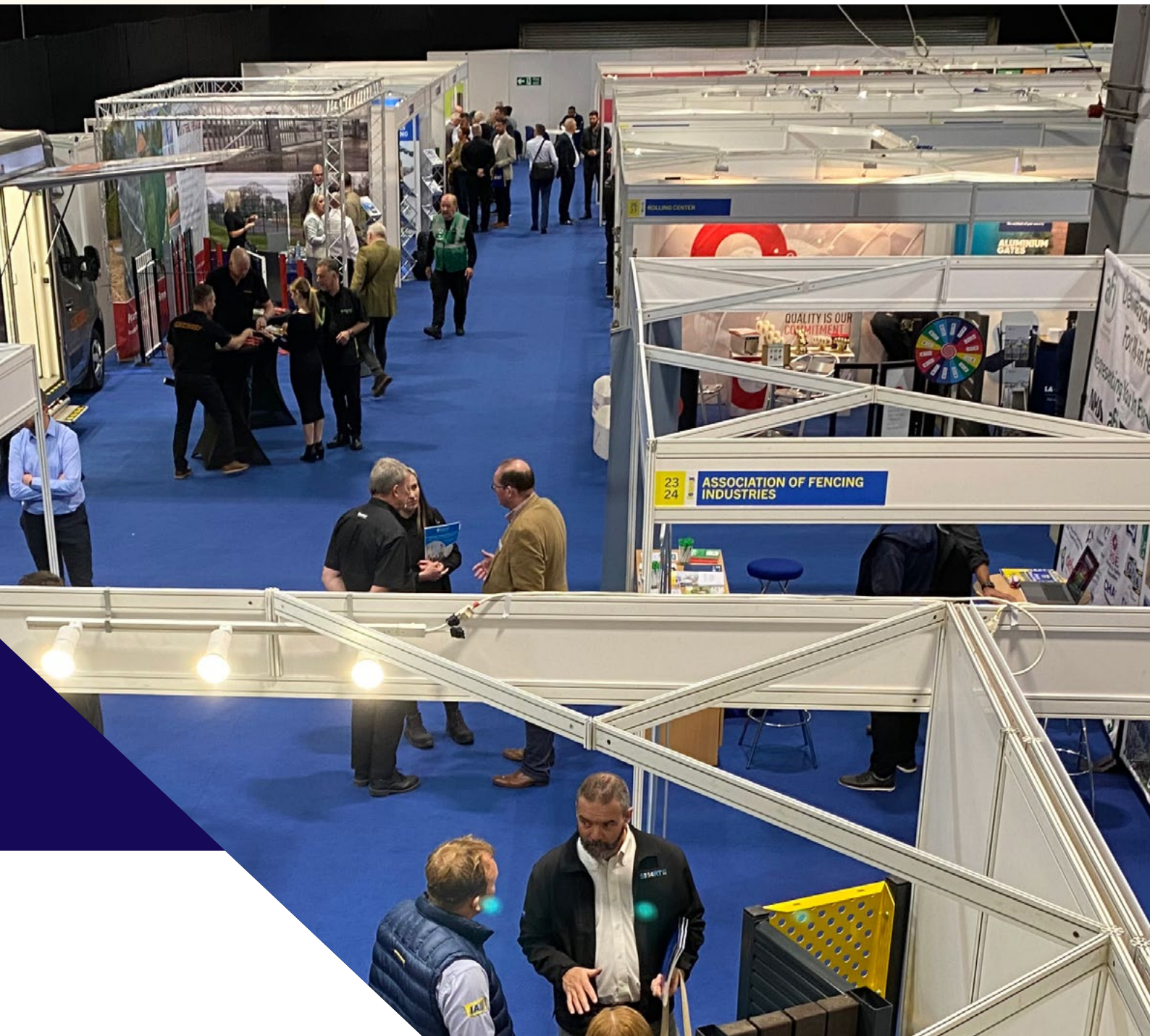
FULL PACKAGE

"FenceX has traditionally concentrated on the security sector," Clark continues. "Whilst we still do with the new live destruction testing area, we also have Best Practice Training on agricultural and equine fencing, with demonstrations on new domestic products and gate automations compliance, as well as new product launches with new systems, better updates and progression of what is happening across the whole fencing industry. Plus, there will be seminars on key topics that are fencing related for contractors, quantity surveyors, specifiers, primary contractors and clients wanting to know what products to use. It really will be The Unmissable Event for the fencing industry."



Pete Clark CEO

BIGGER THAN EVER



FenceX 2025

DESTRUCTION TESTING

"Attendees can expect a full schedule of destruction testing," Clarke goes on. "That's never seen at FenceX. Leading manufacturers will put their products to the test in live demonstrations of strength, durability, and performance. These sessions provide invaluable real-world insight into how different fencing systems stand up under pressure, making it essential viewing for those specifying fencing for security and safety applications. We will be testing more fences than any other security event."

AUTOMATION DEMONSTRATION

Gate automation demonstrations will also be a key highlight at the event, showcasing the latest innovations in powered gates, access control, and safety compliance. "With increasing demand for secure and automated entry systems, this feature of FenceX 2025 is sure to draw interest from installers and specifiers alike," says Clark. "Know how to make your gate safe and compliant first time to avoid accidents to end users."

EXPERT-LED SEMINARS

"In addition, the highly anticipated FenceX seminar schedule will be published shortly," Clark explains. "The schedule will offer a comprehensive programme, covering everything from compliance and safety regulations to emerging trends in fencing technology. Attendees can expect expert presentations from key industry figures, ensuring they stay ahead of the curve in an ever-evolving market."





HANDS-ON LEARNING

For those looking to enhance their practical skills, the Autumn Best Practice Day, a collaboration between the Association of Fencing Industries (AFI) and its subcommittee Agricultural Fencing Association (AFA) will be held outdoors as part of FenceX 2025, and will provide hands-on demonstrations of best-in-class installation techniques. This follows the sell-out Spring Best Practice Day at Harper Adams University (see elsewhere in this issue). Clark: *"Led by national and international fencing competition winners, this is an unmissable opportunity to learn from the best and refine technical strained wire fencing skills in a real-world setting."*



DESIGNED FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

"All-in-all, FenceX 2025 isn't just about seeing the latest products – it's about making connections, developing industry knowledge, and growing your business," says Clark. "With leading manufacturers,

distributors, and service providers exhibiting, visitors will have the chance to speak directly with suppliers, compare products side by side, and discover game-changing solutions for their projects. And

here's an extra incentive – register before 31st August, and you'll receive a free bacon roll on arrival! It's the perfect way to fuel up for a day of learning, networking, and deal-making." FenceX takes place on 15th October 2025 at NAEC Stoneleigh. Tickets are free. ■

Fencing Awards 2025

to be presented in Mercedes-Benz World

The Association of Fencing Industries (AFI) has announced the venue of this year's UK Fencing Awards ceremony. The awards will be presented at the Mercedes-Benz World at the historic Brooklands motor racing circuit in Weybridge, next to the M25 in Surrey.

"The countdown is on," says association CEO Pete Clark. "The most prestigious event in the fencing industry calendar – the UK Fencing Industry Awards 2025 – takes place on Thursday, 13th November at the iconic Mercedes-Benz World. This year's event promises an unforgettable evening of celebration, networking, and industry recognition."

UK Fencing Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award
John Smith

Sponsored by



AWARDS

"The UK Fencing Industry Awards are more than just a ceremony," says Clark. "They are a vital part of industry recognition. By acknowledging the achievements of companies and individuals, the awards inspire others to reach new heights. They shine a spotlight on the value fencing brings to homes, countryside, schools, infrastructure, security, and the broader community, demonstrating the critical role our industry plays in shaping everyday life across the country. As we look ahead to 2025, we're reminded of the exceptional talent, resilience, and innovation that define the UK fencing sector. The awards offer an opportunity to come together, celebrate those achievements, and set the bar even higher for the years to come. With entries now open, fencing professionals from across the UK have the opportunity to showcase their best work, gain well-earned recognition, and be in the running for an industry-leading accolade. We call out to all fencing installers to join – you've got to be in it to win it!"

SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

"Additionally, AFI understands that behind every successful fencing contractor is a reliable supplier, offering innovation, expertise, and support," Clark goes on. "To celebrate these contributions, the Supplier of the Year Award allows fencing contractors to nominate and vote for the suppliers they value the most. This award is open to all suppliers, irrespective of AFI membership, across the fencing supply chain, including traditional distribution outlets, manufacturers, and specialist suppliers. Contractors will have the opportunity to vote via a dedicated page on the AFI website, accessible through a QR code featured on promotional posters, stickers, and marketing materials distributed to suppliers."

FREE TICKET DRAW

There is a special incentive for the new Supplier of the Year nominations. "Contractors who submit a nomination for the Supplier of the Year category will be automatically entered into a free ticket draw," says Clark. "That will give them a chance to attend this prestigious event at no cost. So don't miss this incredible opportunity to be part of the celebration."



MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD

After two rugby and a football stadium, the event venue of 2025 is the Mercedes-Benz World, an interactive experience center located at the historic Brooklands motor racing circuit in Weybridge, next to the M25 in Surrey. Operated by the Mercedes-Benz Group since its opening in October 2006, it offers a destination for car enthusiasts and visitors to engage with the brand's heritage, innovation, and performance. Key features include exhibitions and displays, from historic models like the 300SL Gullwing to modern AMG and electric cars, alongside Formula 1 and Formula E displays, alongside driving experiences and demonstrations by professional drivers.

EVENT

The event kicks off at 6 o'clock in the evening. "We're welcoming guests with an elegant champagne reception and bar, setting the stage for an unforgettable night," says Clark. "A delicious three-course dinner will follow, offering the perfect setting to connect with fellow professionals and celebrate the industry's achievements. Adding to the excitement, we have a guest speaker set to take the stage – a figure sure to inspire and captivate. While we're keeping the details under wraps for now, we promise it's a name you won't want to miss. The highlight of the evening will be a thrilling F1 Simulator Experience. Attendees will get the chance to test their racing skills, with a special prize awarded to the fastest lap on the night. It's definitely going to be an evening to remember."





JOIN

Clark calls out all fence builders to join and apply for the awards. *"This is your opportunity to gain industry-wide recognition and cement your place among the best in the business,"* he says. *"Whether you're an established contractor, an innovative supplier, or a rising star in the trade, there's a category for you. Enter now, don't miss your chance!"* ■



CATEGORIES

- 🏆 Agricultural & Equine Contractor of the Year
- 🏆 Apprentice of the Year
- 🏆 Project of the Year
- 🏆 Domestic Contractor of the Year
- 🏆 Gates Barriers Award
- 🏆 Highways & Railways Award
- 🏆 Industrial Contractor of the Year
- 🏆 Security Award
- 🏆 Sports & Education Award
- 🏆 Temporary & Hoarding Award
- 🏆 Supplier of the Year (New for 2025!)

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SUNSHINE, SKILLS and DEMONSTRATIONS

at the

BEST PRACTICE DAY IN SHROPSHIRE

The Association of Fencing Industries (AFI) and one of its sub committees, the Agricultural Fencing Association (AFA) organised the first Best Practice Day of 2025 in Shropshire. It took place on 30th April at Harper Adams University.

“By every measure, it was a huge success,” says CEO Pete Clark. “With sold-out tickets, a vibrant crowd of engaged delegates enjoying the central location and exceptional facilities, and with wall-to-wall sunshine, the day delivered everything we hoped for and more.”



LEARN

The AFI organises the Best Practice Days to provide a chance for agricultural fencing contractors to learn from some of the most experienced professionals in the industry. “This edition was no exception,” says Clark. “Attendees were treated to hands-on demonstrations of wood and steel strained wire fencing, featuring real-world techniques for straining, wire work, knot tying, and adapting methods to suit site conditions.”

TEAM

The demonstration team that showcased those techniques was a group of national and international competition winners, who generously volunteer their time and expertise to support learning and raise standards across the industry. “Huge thanks go to Mark Evans, Charlie Wright, Jono Bradley, Lewis Knox, Rory Samson, Duncan Samson, Stuart Miles, Peter Redgwell, Rob Bell and James Corbett for their time and expertise,” says Clark. “The feedback from delegates was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the open sharing of knowledge, practical insights, and genuine sense of community that these days offer.”



PACKAGE

Alongside the demonstrations, delegates benefited from seminars on business finance and estimating. A representative of LineWatch was present to explain about underground service identification and there were a few trade stands from suppliers to the industry, with whom delegates had opportunity to engage with over lunch. We'd also like to give a heartfelt thank you to our hugely generous sponsors, whose support makes these days possible," *Clark concludes.* "Special mention must go to the surprise hit of the afternoon – the ice cream van, which provided a perfect cool-down after a full day in the sun!" The next AFI and AFA Best Practice Day will take place on 15th October as part of Fencex 2025 at NAEC Stoneleigh. ■



ROCKWOOL NOISTOP

improves gates

Noistop from Rockwool, a Danish producer of noise fences, has enhanced its range of gates. The gates for the company's three different types of fencing are now all produced in the same way and are universally applicable.



"Until now, we had a different gate for each type of fencing," says marketing manager Annette Runge. This is how things developed over the years, but it wasn't really practical. As the demand for gates has significantly increased lately due to noise problems caused by heating pumps, so has the demand for a good and universal system."

GATE

There is now one Noistop gate core. The posts, hinges, and lock are always the same. Only the thickness of the frame differs, depending on the type of fencing. Furthermore, there is one system to fill the gap between the posts and the leaf. *"In addition, the gate is now universally applicable,"* Runge states. *"This is a long-held wish. Previously, the customer had to specify in advance on which side they wanted the hinges or send a drawing. With the universal 4D hinges and the Sixtylock from Locinox, that is now a thing of the past; you can have any gate open left and right and inwards and outwards, just as needed."*

TYPES

Noistop fencing is available in three different types. *"The core is always a slab of stone wool,"* says Runge. *"Or better said: Rockwool Noistop stone wool. This slab is covered with polyethylene fabric, a plastic, shielding from birds and adding different looks to the design. In our product Noistop Steel, the Rockwool stone wool is enclosed in a steel frame, while in Noistop Wood, the slab is enclosed by wooden frames. Then we have Noistop Essential, which is a thinner variant similar to Noistop Steel that can also be cladded with wood. For the gates, the customer can choose between Noistop Steel, Noistop Wood and Noistop Essential. The gate core is basically identical, but depending on the variant it is cladded with wood by default or optionally."*





APPLICATIONS

"When we started nineteen years ago, noise barriers were usually only used for parts of the garden," Runge explains. "Nowadays, we see more and more projects where the entire property is enclosed with Noistop because, alongside soundproof fencing, privacy fencing is still popular and remains so. And Noistop is, of course, also privacy-providing. This way, people have everything in the same style, and it becomes even quieter in the garden. We are also increasingly seeing projects where Noistop is used around heat pumps or even on the roofs of large buildings to keep the sound of air conditioning away from the rooftop terraces. Lastly, we have even seen projects where Noistop was used as fire protection around gas and electric installations because stone wool has such good fire-resistant properties. All of this makes the gates in higher demand, and we now have a good answer to that."







NOISTOP DOOR

The new Noistop gate is called Noistop Door and is available in single (1 meter wide) and double (2 meters wide) versions, at heights of 1.8 and 2 meters. Special sizes remain available on request. *"For end customers with special door requests, we also supply the steel Noistop fencing modules separately,"* Runge adds. *"You can then build the door or gate frames and insert Noistop modules into your own swing or sliding gate. This way, we ensure that you can offer an entire project in the same Noistop style."* The new Noistop Doors have been available since this winter. ■



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FENCES IN THE NEWS



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FENCES IN THE NEWS

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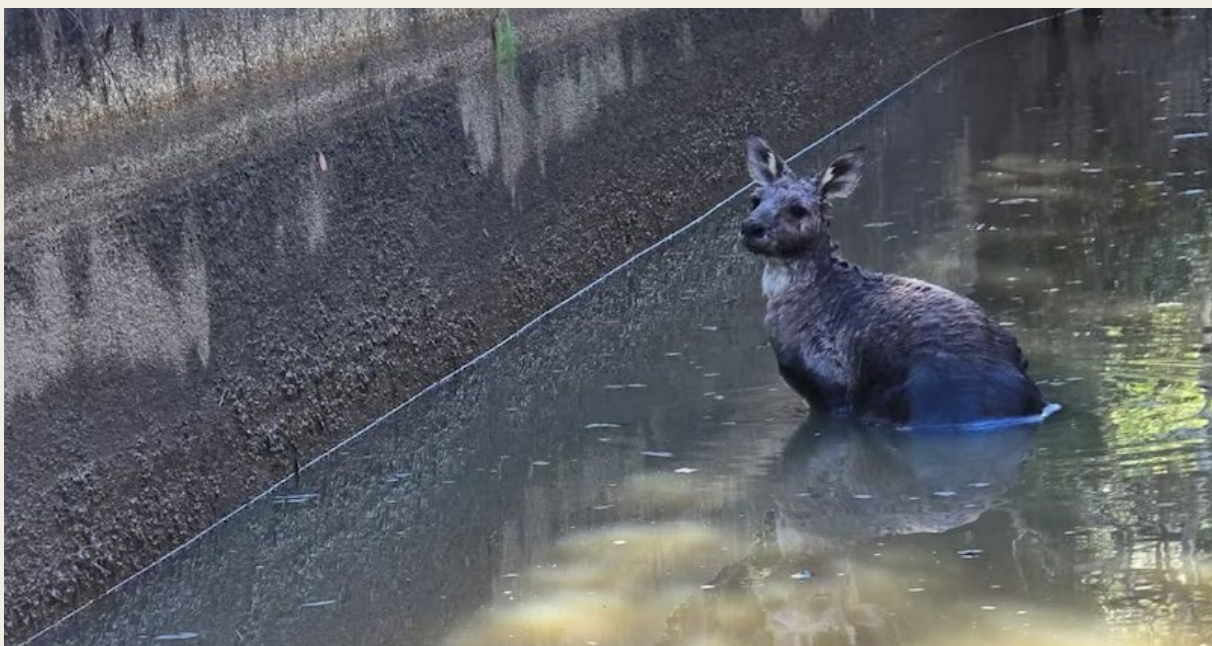
CANAL FENCE TO PROTECT KANGAROOS FROM DROWNING

Australia,
Victoria



In the Australian state of Victoria lies the Coliban Main Channel, a 70-kilometer-long canal that brings drinking water from the inland to Melbourne. Conservationists want the canal to be fenced on both sides. Despite 47 designated crossing points, kangaroos frequently fall or jump into the canal, from which they cannot escape and drown. This spring, a mob of ten kangaroos ended up in the canal, and only two were rescued by local responders.

Various government agencies are now mapping out exactly where the fence should go, as it's considered heartbreaking that kangaroos keep drowning. Here at the editorial desk, we think any reason is a good reason to put up a fence. The more fences, the better. Though, we'd probably have done it out of concern for the drinking water quality, but what do we know? Anyway, 140 kilometers of fencing is a nice job, so we wish our Australian readers good luck in landing the contract. ■



THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN FENCE HUNT

Australia,
Queensland's
Outback

A week of heavy rainfall followed by a tropical cyclone caused severe flooding in Queensland's Outback, Australia, in March this year. The region, four times larger than the UK, has few people, but it's estimated that the floods killed over 200,000 head of livestock. Villages, roads, and bridges are covered in thick mud. The fertile topsoil of fields has been washed away in large areas or buried under sludge. But the biggest loss hasn't been mentioned yet: an estimated 8000 kilometers of fencing has been swept away or rendered unusable. Without fences, it makes no sense for livestock farmers in the area to start breeding or acquiring new herds. This means Queensland's population now faces a massive challenge: 8000 kilometers

of fencing must be built as quickly as possible. The cost is estimated at 80 million Australian dollars. That seems low to us, equating to a per-meter price of 10 dollars, which is less than 6 euros. But the biggest problem isn't the cost – it's the availability of fencing materials. Even in Australia, 8000 kilometers of mesh fencing isn't something every supplier has in stock. A massive rush for materials has now begun, jokingly dubbed The Great Australian Fence Hunt. And once factories there ramp up production, the next issue is already looming: manpower. Just like in Europe, Australia faces a significant shortage of fencing installers. In other words: for anyone up for a new challenge, there's plenty to do in Queensland's Outback for the foreseeable future. ■



Malawi,
Africa

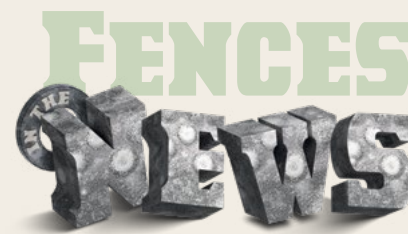
In Malawi, one of the poorest and most corrupt countries in the world, controversy has arisen over the construction of a fence around Mzuzu Airport. The airport was renovated in recent years to improve connectivity between the northern region and the capital, Lilongwe. The terminal was refurbished, the runway extended by 300 meters, and a new fence was built around it. Thanks to these measures, commercial flights could be scheduled in March for the first time in fifteen years. This creates jobs, reduces pressure on road traffic, and benefits the country's economy. One would think Malawians would be pleased with their new airport and the opportunities it brings. Nothing could be further from the truth. Instead,

there were protests and complaints, particularly about the fence. Part of it was built with wooden posts, which is apparently unacceptable in a country ranked 169th on the list of the world's richest nations. On social media, it's being called the joke of the century. The wooden posts can easily be stolen – something that already happened during the protests – and they don't meet the ICAO standards for international aviation. It's a national disgrace. Transport Minister Steve Malondera took the criticism to heart and had the wooden posts replaced with steel ones, so the fence around Mzuzu Airport can now stand alongside those of other airports worldwide, like those in London and New York. ■



WOODEN POLES FOR MALAWIAN AIRPORT





BECOMING A FENCE BUILDER IN AFRICA

Malawi,
Africa

In Africa, too, you can now become a fence builder if you're not smart enough for anything else. At least, if you live near the Kasungu National Park in Malawi. There, 543 people have been given jobs to build 130 kilometers of electric fencing to keep wild animals—especially elephants—away from farmers' fields and villages. The new fence builders earn an income and learn technical skills. It's a project by an animal welfare foundation that aims to prevent the animals from posing a threat

to the people living on the edge of the nature reserve and being shot as a result. It's actually quite similar to Europe. Here, too, you can become a fence builder to earn an income and gain technical skills. There's one small difference, though: the Africans install about 30 meters of wildlife fencing per day (130,000 meters divided by 8 years (they've been at it since 2017) divided by 543 fence builders), which is apparently considered a good performance there. ■



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