

FENCING TIMES

UK & Ireland

2025, Issue 31

Locinox launches
Unilec

Heald presents
Matagate

Flat keypad
by CETA



TELL updates OPENioting



FROM THE PUBLISHER



Wheel Clamp & Co





When I'd just started working in fencing, in the late nineties, there was a story going around in the trade about two installers who had to put up a small fence in the centre of Amsterdam. When they went to grab a bite to eat at lunchtime, they didn't want to leave their work van unattended with all their tools on it. So what did they do? They parked the van right up on the pavement, directly in front of a snack bar window – or maybe it was a sandwich shop, something like that – so they could sit inside, eat their lunch, and keep an eye on their tools through the window. If a parking officer happened to come by, they figured, they'd spot them in time and could quickly step outside to explain why the van was parked there.

It was a solid plan. But in Amsterdam – home to both the highest parking fees and the steepest fines in the world, higher even

than London or New York – that plan didn't stand a chance. The parking wardens there are among the craftiest on the planet. They've no patience for three hundred new sob stories a day and are trained to operate with maximum stealth. If they see a work van parked on the pavement outside a café, they already know exactly what's going on. They'll make sure to stay out of sight of anyone peering through the windows while slyly writing up the ticket.

So you can imagine the surprise of our two installers when they came back to find a big, heavy, bright yellow wheel clamp attached to their van. But their astonishment didn't last long. Within seconds they were doubled over with laughter, right there by the canal. Because as clever as it might seem to sneak up and slap a wheel clamp on a fencing van, it actually shows just how spectacularly stupid those parking officers are. Of all the ways to fine a fencing van parked on the pavement, the wheel clamp is by far the most ridiculous.

The generator was started, the angle grinder pulled out of the back, and within half a minute the big yellow clamp lay neatly in pieces in the back of the van. The two installers then drove back to their job and cheerfully got on with their work.

It's a brilliant story. Whether it actually happened, I don't know – but it certainly sounded true. The fencer who told it said he'd heard it straight from the one whose installers had sliced off the clamp. He had told it like this: *"I was sitting in my office upstairs, looking out the window, when the guys came back to the yard, and I thought: 'what on earth have they got lying in the back of the van?'"* When he asked about it, out came this story. How it all ended – if it really happened – I couldn't tell you. If that particular parking officer ever made use of his single working brain cell, he'd at least have written down the van's license plate. In

that case, the boss of those two installers probably had quite a bit of explaining to do. (If you are – or know – someone who remembers this incident, get in touch. We'd love to hear more.)

It's one of those many stories we've heard over the years but never actually printed in this magazine. Like the one about a fencer who, early in his career, went to see a client who wanted a fence around his villa. The door was opened by a servant, who led the fencer out to the pool, where the master of the house was doing his daily laps. The gentleman didn't bother to leave the pool for someone of such lowly status as a fencer but kept swimming back and forth, explaining – mid-stroke – where the new fence should go and what it should look like, while the fencer walked alongside the pool, notebook in hand, jotting everything down.

That same fencer once told us another story, about a client who wanted to replace an old chain-link fence on the boundary with his neighbour with a new twin-wire fence. The old one was indeed falling apart. The fencer made a quote, got the job, and sent his crew. On the first day they skillfully dismantled the old fence and hauled it away. Just as they were finishing up, the neighbour came home from work, stormed into the garden waving his arms, and shouted: "*Where's my fence gone?*"

Fencers witness the strangest things. Some of them we've written about already. Like the fence that Basti Munch from Breitmeyer Zaunbau sold to two neighbours, who split the cost. They both insisted on a model with the bars welded against the rails instead of between them. There was no talking them out of it. But first when the time came to install it, they started arguing over who would get the 'nice side'. The final compromise? The panels were mounted alternately, one this way, one that.

We've also written about Jan Govers, who once shoveled hand grenades aside on a military training ground because waiting for the bomb disposal squad would've taken too long. And about a fencer who defrauded the Dutch tax office of eight million guilders and moved his entire company to Poland. Every story is different – and every story is a joy to tell.

We'd love to publish more of these tales. We should, and we could – but somehow, it never happens. So, what's your best story? Write it down for us. Or just tell us over the phone – we'll write it for you. Do it during a long drive, it won't cost you any working hours. We'll gladly take the time. You'll be doing us – and especially your fellow fencers – a huge favour, because fencers' stories are always worth sharing. ■





FENCING TIMES

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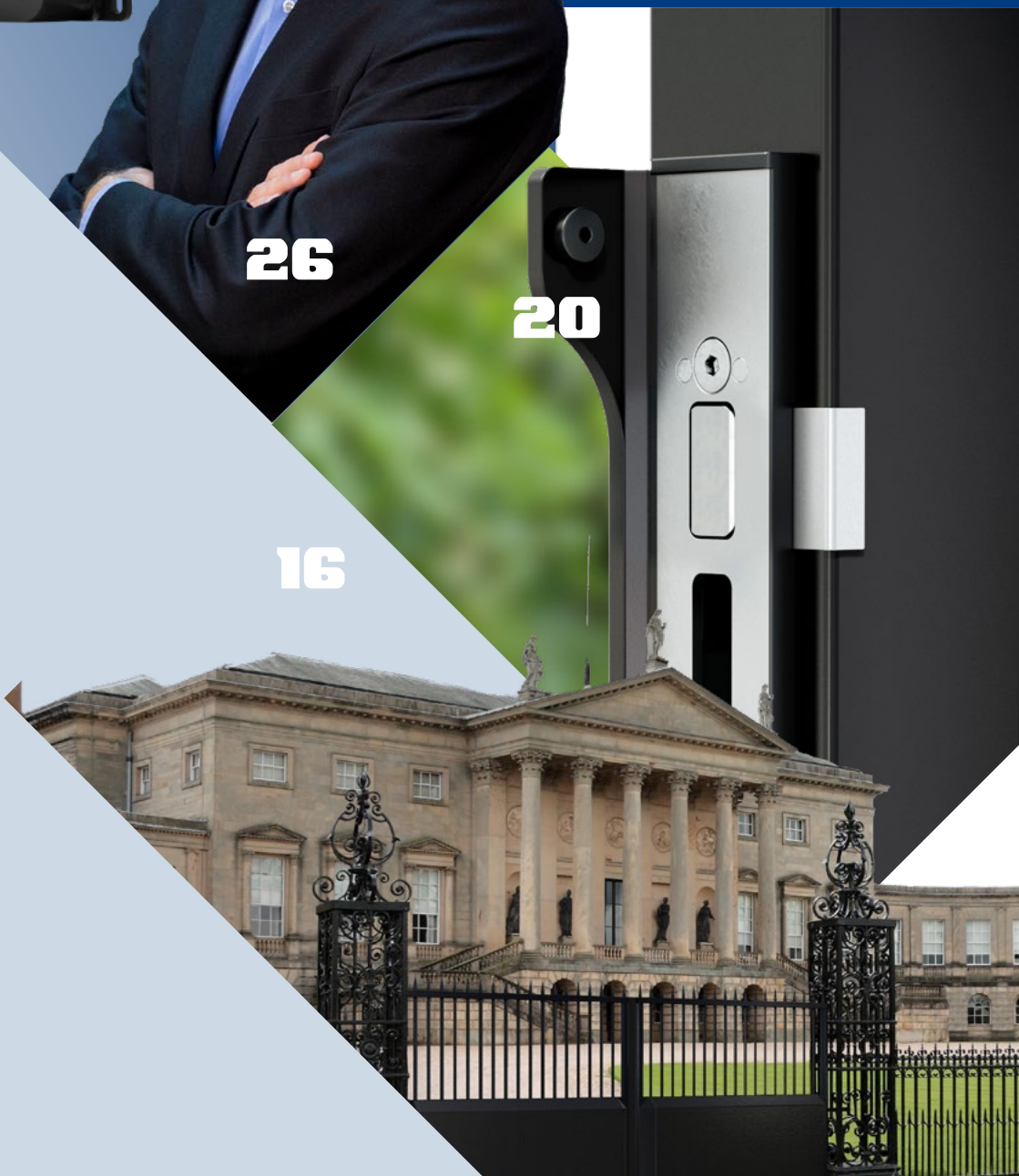
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FENCE POST



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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.

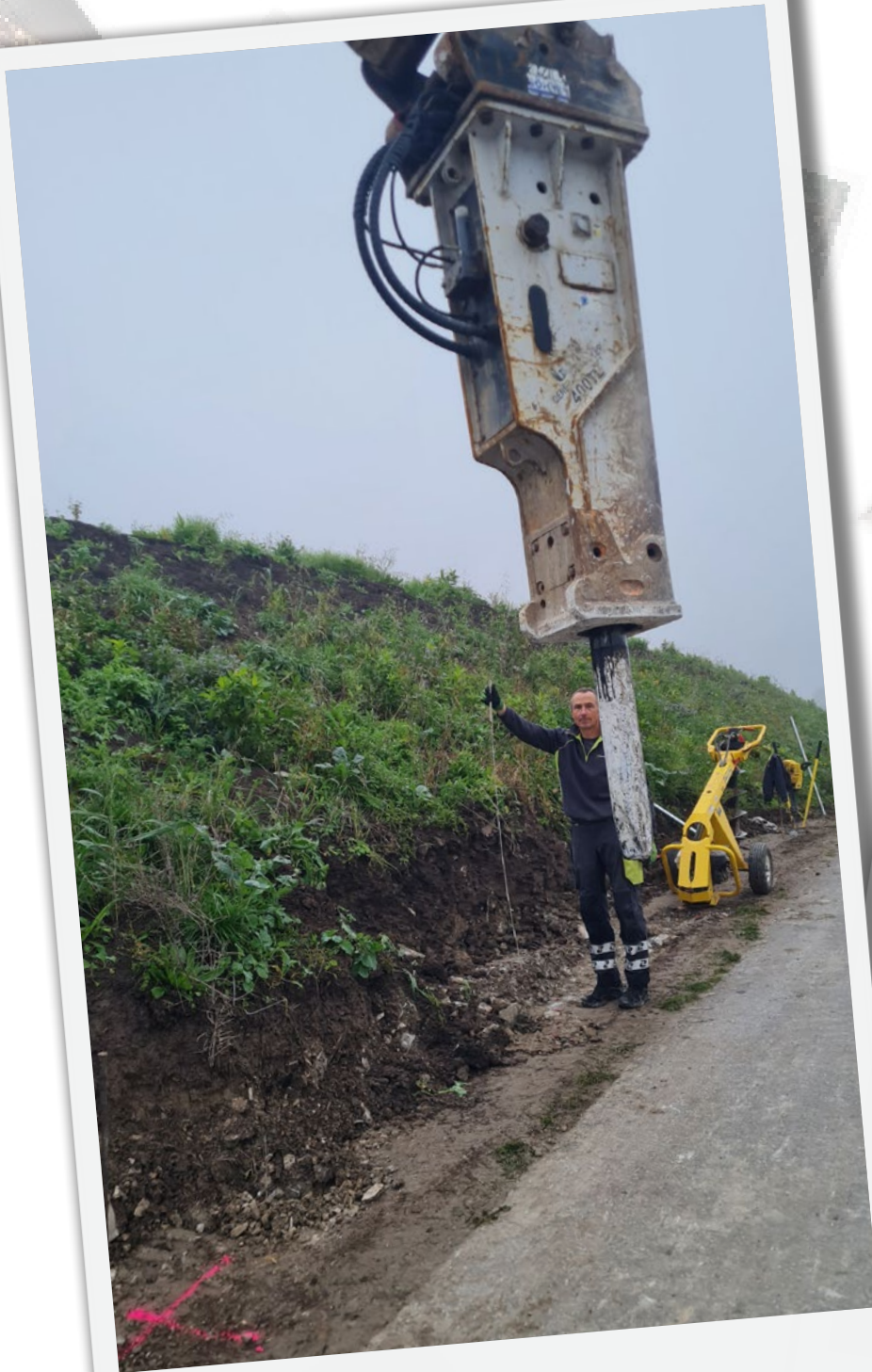


SHINY FENCE

Christian Buchholz from Zaunbau Nord West in Rostock sent us this photo of a fence that shines so much it almost looks photoshopped. Beautifully built, Christian. If the owner were to plant a few brightly coloured flowers in that narrow strip of soil between the road and the fence, and if someone gave that little Telekom cabinet a quick blast with the pressure washer, it would really look wonderful in that street. But for now, the handsome fence is already standing there. Thanks for the photo!

EXCAVATOR ON STEROIDS

Yvonne Huonker from the Zaunteam branch in Rottweil sent us these photos at the beginning of October. "We started this week on a fence in a stone quarry," she wrote. "As expected, it was of course difficult to drill holes with the auger. Then a 32-ton excavator came to help for a moment, and we had all the post holes done in no time." Always nice when you get unexpected help. Too bad that excavator doesn't fit on your trailer — you could take it along to every job. Thanks for the great photos, Yvonne!



WHEELED GATE

"Who says the support wheels of a sliding gate always have to be as small as possible? And that they must be built into the bottom beam of the leaf?" That's what Erwin van der Straeten, an independent installer of gate drives from the Ghent region, wondered when he came across this gate in Béziers, France. "You can use them as an eye-catcher instead." Quite right, Erwin — we couldn't agree more. Are all the gate builders and manufacturers out there paying attention? A little creativity never hurts. Thanks for the photo!

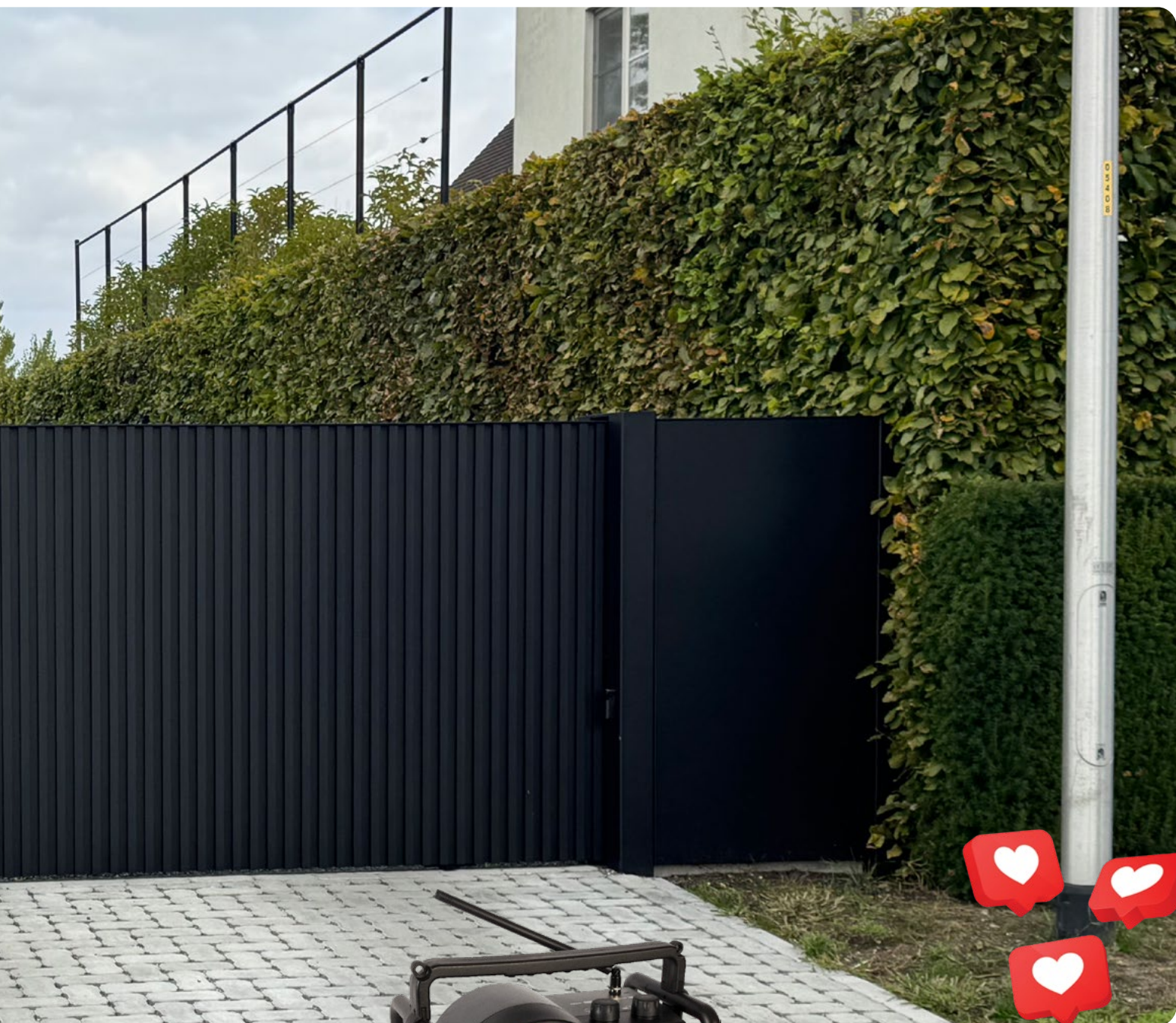




PHOTO OF THE MONTH

FAADE CLADDING

Luc Wynants from Wynants Hekwerken in Bilzen, between Hasselt and Maastricht, sent us this beautiful entrance setup. The sliding gate and pedestrian gate are filled with aluminium faade cladding, while the letterbox console and side panel are made from smooth sheet material for variation. And all of it appears to be powder-coated in matte black. It's a wonderful project, Luc — definitely one to be proud of. The Locinox construction-site radio is heading to Bilzen this month!



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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Fencing Times
The NEWS

UK & Ireland

Garda Group rebrands as Heras



OSLO, Norway – The Garda Sikring Group, a multinational that includes Norwegian Garda Sikring, Danish Kibo, German Freihoff and Dutch Heras, has changed its name. With the transformation, the group aims to better reflect its ambition to deliver 360-degree security solutions that protect what matters to customers across all sectors. The parent company, based in Oslo, has been called Heras since mid-October. Over the course of 2026, many other

companies and brands within the group will also adopt the Heras name, creating, as the press release puts it, “a consistent presence in the European market.”

“This is more than a name change,” says Kettil Stenberg, CEO of the group. “It’s a clear statement of intent. By bringing our companies together under one identity, we combine the strength of local expertise with the scale of a European market leader. Our customers can rely on the same trusted teams – now

united under a single brand that reflects our ambition and dedication to protecting what truly matters.”

The group chose the name Heras because it is a widely recognised and trusted brand within the group’s portfolio and the wider security industry. Alongside the rebranding, the group is introducing a new visual identity – a modernised logo and style.

At Heras, which was acquired by Garda only in 2024, there is

pride that the group will now continue under the Heras name. Emmanuel Rigaux, CEO of Heras Western Europe, says: “It’s a confirmation of the strong heritage and solid market position that the Heras brand represents. The new visual identity, to be introduced in 2026, marks an important step forward that unites us as a group, while our customers can continue to rely on the same dependable services and solutions they always have.” ■

Picot increases stake in MRT

BARCELONA, Spain – Picot, the holding company behind the French firm Dirickx, Sweden's Halsang, and the Dutch company B&G, has increased its stake in the Spanish fencing manufacturer Moreda Riviere Trefilerías (MRT). Picot now holds 44 percent of the shares. MRT's main shareholder remains the Spanish Celsa Group, a steel producer. With Picot's investment, which Celsa describes in a press release as a strategic alliance, MRT aims to expand its production capacity by 8000 tonnes per year. ■



Guardi acquired by Aurevo

VIENNA, Austria – Aluminium fencing and gate manufacturer Guardi has been acquired by investment company Aurevo. Guardi had – according to local media – fallen into economic difficulties following the unexpected death of its founder, Rudi Czapek, in September last year. Aurevo co-owners Thomas Lanzerstorfer and Stefan Wagner plan to take over management themselves for the time being.

For them, Guardi is a valuable addition to their existing company SunElements, a producer of garden houses with integrated solar panels.

Guardi is headquartered in Vienna and employs around 40 people in Austria. In Jasło, in south-eastern Poland, a further 300 employees work at the production site. The company's most recent annual turnover was approximately 30 million euros. ■



Gate Safe launches Safe School Gates Working Party

CANTERBURY, UK – Gate Safe, een Engelse installering voor poortveiligheid, has formed a new working party with major stakeholders to address unsafe gates in schools across the UK. "The initiative is part of our Safe School Gates campaign," says Gate Safe founder Richard Jackson. "That campaign follows alarming survey results revealing that most school gates pose serious safety risks. If representative nationwide, an estimated 28,000 unsafe gates could currently be in use across over 32,000 educational sites."

In the survey that Jackson talks about, 87 percent of swing gates lacked the required three hinges. Only 9 percent had a robust fall arrest tether. Over 50 percent had just one pair of photocells and nearly 25 percent had insufficient or no safety edges.

A recent meeting, hosted by Ashford MP Sojan Joseph, brought together representatives from the police, insurance, accident prevention, and education compliance sectors to discuss the issue. Jackson: "The group agreed that both automated

and manual gates require greater oversight and that schools must play a role in ensuring safety, particularly as automated gates are classified as machines under law. Delegates committed to

forming a working party that will plan a Westminster roundtable involving additional stakeholders, aimed at raising awareness and driving legislative and practical improvements." ■



New CEO for Præsidiad



BIRMINGHAM, UK – Since September, Benjamin Neumann has been the new CEO of Præsidiad, the parent company of Betafence and Hesco. Neumann joins from outside the industry: he previously led several companies in the mobile power supply sector in Switzerland and France.

"With Benjamin as CEO, we are bringing on board a leader with exceptional international experience and a strong customer-focused vision," says Paul Lester, Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Præsidiad. *"His knowledge and strategic insight will accelerate growth and further strengthen Præsidiad's position in a competitive market."*

Neumann succeeds Dino Koutrouki, who has led the company for the past six years and is now seeking a new challenge outside the group. According to the press release, Koutrouki played a key role in Præsidiad's strategic reorientation towards the critical infrastructure market. The company thanks him for his commitment and valuable contributions over the past years. Under Benjamin Neumann's leadership, Præsidiad aims to further strengthen its foundation as a global specialist in perimeter security, expand its international presence, and position the Betafence and Hesco brands even more strongly in the high-security infrastructure market. ■

Rolling Center celebrates 50th anniversary



FALZÈ DI TREVIGNANO, Italy

– Rolling Center, manufacturer of components for sliding and swing gates, celebrated its 50th anniversary in September. Founded in 1973, the company has since been supplying products to customers across various markets.

The anniversary celebration took place in a Venetian villa in Cavasagra, where partners, customers, suppliers, employees and friends were welcomed in a unique and elegant setting. The evening began with an aperitif by the pool, followed by a gala dinner

in front of the illuminated villa. Musical performances created an unforgettable atmosphere.

In his speech, CEO Enrico Molaro looked back on the company's key milestones — from the first wheels made by Mario and Tiziano Dal Canton, to the in-ground Omega guide and the self-supporting trolleys that transformed the international market. He also expressed optimism for the future, supported by an enthusiastic, passionate team eager to make the next 50 years just as successful. ■

Comunello celebrates 60th anniversary



ROSÀ, Italy

– Comunello, manufacturer of components for gates and gate automation systems, celebrated its 60th anniversary last summer with an especially festive Summer Party organized

for the occasion. The company was founded in 1965 in Rosà, in the province of Vicenza. The milestone marks six decades of production and presence in the industry. ■

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DEA renews Ironbox sliding gate housing



PIOVENE ROCCHETTE, Italy

– Drive manufacturer DEA, based near Vicenza, launched the renewed Ironbox this summer. The Ironbox is a housing for the REV/IB sliding gate drive, and since the new update, DEA's Gulliver drive also fits inside. There is space at the top for the control unit, and a DIN rail is included for attaching additional accessories. ■



Heald introduces Matagate



Heald, a British manufacturer of high security gates and other perimeter security based in Hornsea, near Hull in Yorkshire, is launching the Matagate. It is a vehicle-resistant gate with a foundation that requires little or no depth.

"The Matagate is an extended development of our Matador bollards," says CEO Debbie Heald. "These are bollards that slide sideways instead of sinking into the ground to allow passage. They have a foundation of less than 16 centimeters – or can be completely surface mounted where the road surface is suitable – and can still stop heavy trucks."

MATAGATE

"That shallow foundation is ideal in city centres, where there are many cables underground, but especially at temporary locations where no ground works are possible, such as at events," continues Debbie Heald. "The shallow mount bollards are very easy to install and are very desirable as they also provide excellent protection. We were often asked by the customer to also protect the site from pedestrians, so this made us want to offer a gate with an ultra-shallow foundation too." That gate became the Matagate. It is a gate without posts, with the leaves standing on their own. They use the drive system of the Matador bollards to move them. "This means no deep holes have to be excavated for the posts, protecting the city infrastructures."

ANTI-TERROR

Because the gate uses the technology and structure of the bollards, the existing PAS68 and IWA crash test certifications of the bollards also apply to the gate. There are two versions: The Matagate HT2 stops trucks weighing 7.5 tons travelling at 40 miles (64 kilometres) per hour. The HT3 stops the same trucks at 50 miles (80 kilometres) per hour. "And they'll still work after the impact," says Heald. "During crash tests, the Matador bollards successfully stopped the vehicle in its tracks, protecting the people behind the defence line. The gate cladding is designed to be sacrificial, so you would need to replace this after a large impact."





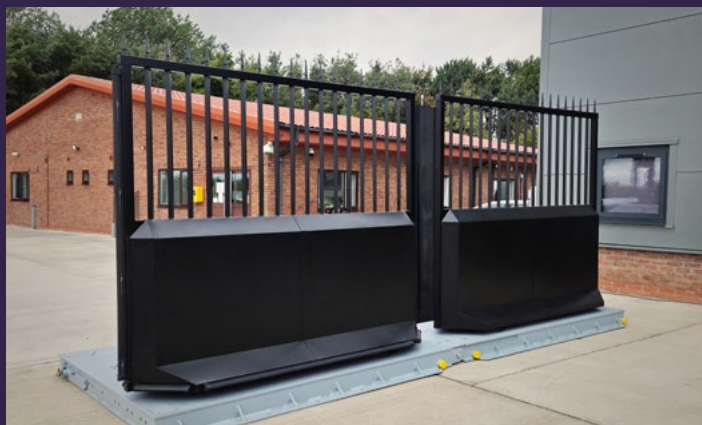
Debbie Heald (second from left) with her team at the International Security Expo in London

FOUNDATION

The Matagate is mounted on a steel frame that is integrated into a 150-millimetre-thick slab. The drive technology is housed within that slab. There are openings at multiple locations for water drainage and utilities, so it does not matter which direction the cables come from. If the foundation is buried, special Paving Trays of 80 or 110 millimetres can be provided to seamlessly integrate the foundation into the paving. Optionally, the foundation can be equipped with a heating system to prevent freezing when the gate is used in cold climate areas.

MODELS

The lower half of the gate leaves, where all the defensive technology is incorporated, is always covered with steel sheets. *"The covers are designed to be replaceable on site after an impact,"* says Debbie Heald. *"For the upper half of the leaf, the customer can choose the type of infill. Bars, tubes, mesh, or something classic with ornaments or advertising their business or site – we offer fully customisable options for cladding the gates."* Optionally, the Matagate can be equipped with lighting or the addition of ballistic material. The gate is available with a passage width from 4 to 7 metres and has a standard height of 2 metres. It was presented to the public in September at the International Security Expo and can now be ordered. ■

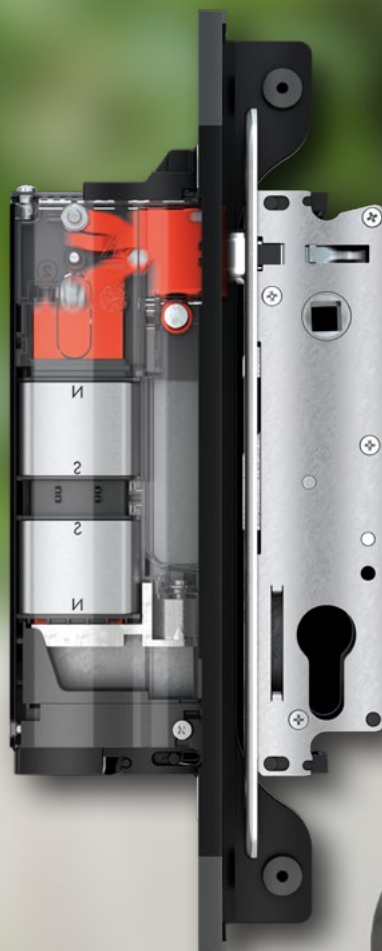


LOCINOX

lance la gâche électrique UNILEC

Le fabricant de solutions de fermetures pour portails Locinox, basé à Waregem en Belgique, a présenté en octobre l'Unilec : une gâche électrique encastrée particulièrement plate, conçue pour les portails battants. Le produit a été développé afin d'offrir un contrôle d'accès fiable aux clients travaillant avec des serrures à encastrer.

« Jusqu'à présent, il était parfois difficile de combiner nos serrures à encastrer – comme la Fortylock ou la Sixtylock – avec une gâche électrique, » explique Arnaud Thomé, directeur commercial. « Les serrures à encastrer sont idéales pour les portails où l'espace entre le vantail et le poteau est très réduit, comme sur les portails à remplissage plein. Mais pour installer une gâche électrique, il fallait justement de la place entre le poteau et le vantail. C'était contradictoire. C'est pourquoi nous lançons aujourd'hui l'Unilec : une gâche électrique extra plate. »



UNILEC

Contrairement aux modèles existants, tels que la Modulec ou l'Intralec, le pêne demi-tour de l'Unilec est poussé vers l'extérieur. « Grâce à cette nouvelle technologie, nous avons pu rendre l'Unilec universelle, » poursuit Thomé. « C'est le deuxième grand avantage : elle peut être utilisée sur tous les types de portails – qu'ils s'ouvrent vers la gauche, la droite, l'intérieur ou l'extérieur – sans qu'il soit nécessaire, contrairement à l'Intralec, de modifier l'intégration dans le poteau. L'Unilec est ce que nous appelons Uniwing-compatible : elle s'intègre parfaitement dans une découpe standard et se fixe très facilement grâce à notre nouveau système Click-It. Aucune découpe complexe du profil ni plaque d'appui n'est nécessaire. Vous conservez une totale liberté de conception pour la position du vantail et du poteau. Et si besoin, la butée peut même être supprimée. »

MONTAGE

L'Unilec se monte dans le poteau du portail, en face de la serrure à encastrer. « L'installation est comparable à celle d'une gâche mécanique standard, » précise Thomé. « C'est d'une simplicité extrême. » L'alimentation électrique requise varie de 12 à 24 volts en courant continu, et le câblage peut être dissimulé dans le montant du portail. L'Unilec est équipée d'une butée réglable, permettant d'adapter la position au pêne demi-tour de la serrure utilisée. En cas de coupure de courant, la gâche se verrouille automatiquement : « Cela signifie que le portail est également verrouillé en cas de panne de courant – c'est donc un système fail-close. »

CARACTÉRISTIQUES TECHNIQUES

L'Unilec est composée d'une têtère en acier inoxydable et d'un boîtier en aluminium. Elle fonctionne sous une tension de 12 à 24 volts en courant continu. Lorsqu'elle est alimentée, elle pousse le pêne demi-tour vers l'extérieur et peut accueillir un débattement allant jusqu'à 20 millimètres. Elle est conçue pour être utilisée exclusivement avec les serrures à encastrer Locinox, de la Fortylock à l'Eightylock. D'autres modèles de serrures ne sont pas compatibles. Le déverrouillage électrique de l'Unilec peut être commandé via un système de contrôle d'accès, un bouton-poussoir ou un interphone. La nouvelle Unilec est disponible depuis octobre. ■

Arnaud Thomé

Directeur
commercial



CETA launches flat keypad on the market

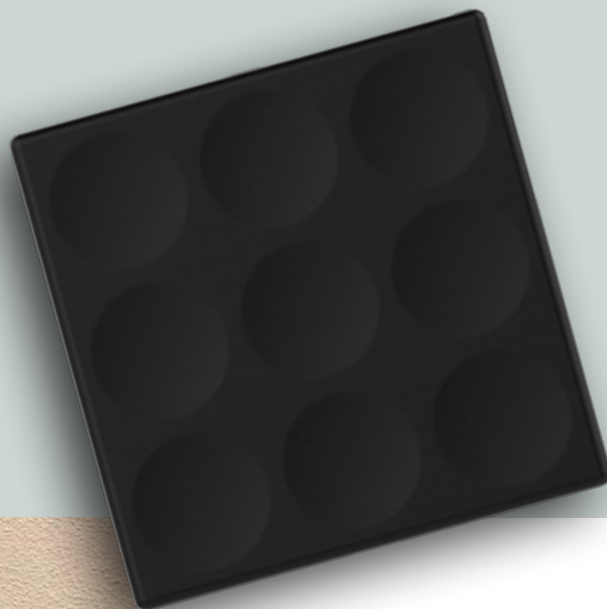
CETA, an Austrian manufacturer of sliding gates and gate hardware from Fladnitz, a small town north of Graz, is launching its own flat keypad on the market. It is characterized by its unmarked, anonymous appearance and extensive functionality.

"We had an old keypad on the door between the workshop and the office here at the company," says Josef Loidolt, who developed the new keypad along with his brother Peter. "We used it with short codes, because no one wanted to remember eight or ten digit numbers. However, a potential intruder could immediately tell from the worn keys of the old keypad which digits they needed to try. Moreover, that keypad had those rubber keys, where you could hardly tell if you had pressed them correctly. This sometimes meant you had to enter the code three or four times before the door would open. There was constant grumbling among the colleagues. So we looked for alternatives – but they either had the same problems, were ugly, or were outrageously expensive. So we decided to develop something ourselves."

CETA KEYPAD

The new CETA keypad is designed to be simple and modern. It appears neutral without numbers or other imprints. The buttons can be identified by nine slight indentations. *"We wanted a modern design,"* says Loidolt. *"That's why we tried to make the casing as flat as possible."* The front of the keypad looks like a plastic casing but is actually a capacitive touchscreen – similar to a mobile phone. This allows both tapping and swiping to enter codes. The nine indentations allow for orientation on the casing. *"Especially when swiping, you can operate the keypad blindly. You don't have to look."*





SECURITY

Swiping was a central requirement in the development. "This allows us to create codes that are practically unbreakable," explains Loidolt. "A four-digit code offers ten thousand possibilities. The computing power to try them all was already on every mobile phone ten years ago. Therefore, we wanted to enable the programming of long, secure codes. But no one can remember 16 digits - and those who can, take forever to type. However, a swipe pattern of 16 digits is easy to remember and quick to enter."

OUTDOOR USE

Another important prerequisite was that the keypad works outdoors – even in frost, rain, or snow. "The latter was the biggest challenge," Peter Loidolt takes over. "We already had a prototype at the Perimeter Protection at the beginning of the year, but it still had slight problems in wet conditions. The current version now works perfectly in all weather conditions." Additionally, the CETA keypad features an integrated heater that prevents condensation and ice formation on the surface at low temperatures – when connected to an external power source. "And we have a winter feature that hardly anyone thinks of: You can also operate our keypad with gloves. Therefore, it is also ideal for workshops and industrial areas."

TRANSMITTER

The opening technology of the new CETA keypad also differs from usual systems: Inside is a transmitter that sends a signal to a radio receiver at 433 or 868 megahertz. *"This offers a whole range of advantages,"* says Loidolt. *"You can control up to sixteen receivers from different manufacturers. The customer can open their sliding gate with one code and their garage with another. Or turn on the garden lighting – whatever."* The keypad also has a built-in relay, which can be used, for example, to control a doorbell. *"In some situations, it's just practical to have a relay connection, so we included it."*

INSTALLATION

The new keypad requires a power supply of 12 to 24 volts. *"With a powered gate, that's almost always nearby,"* says Loidolt. *"Typically, you can branch off the power from the drive control or an electric door opener. If that's not possible, that's also no problem, because we have integrated a battery - a standard CR2032 button cell - that lasts for a year. If you don't use the keypad too intensively, even up to two years."* The further installation is straightforward: The device is attached with two screws and can be secured against theft with an additional screw. The new CETA keypad will be available from December 2025. ■





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OPEN.ioting

from Tell receives major update

The smart gate opener OPEN.ioting from the Hungarian company Tell is getting a significant update. In the new Power+ model the connectivity has been improved and the built-in power supply has been removed, making the opener more versatile. Additionally, the accompanying app has been made even more intuitive.

"Over the past year since its market launch, the OPEN.ioting smart gate opener has been widely adopted," says Mihály Kiácz, Head of International Sales. "It is not only popular for residential use but has also been widely implemented in parking garages, corporate access control systems, and Airbnb rental properties. Gate owners in those environments appreciate the ability to add or revoke access remotely, avoiding the hassle of distributing or collecting physical remotes. The fast and broad adoption has motivated us to keep improving the device."





OPEN.IOTING

OPEN.ioting stands for 'opening with IoT', where IoT is an abbreviation for the Internet of Things. IoT involves connecting devices like cars, refrigerators, coffee machines, and thus gates to the internet. By connecting the gate to the internet, it can be controlled remotely. "You can then operate it with an app on your phone or watch," says Kiácz. "The app naturally provides two large buttons for opening and closing, but it can also show you the status of the gate. The OPEN.ioting unit has two inputs for that purpose where you can connect the gate's limit switches. You can also invite other users."

Mihály Kiácz
exportmanager

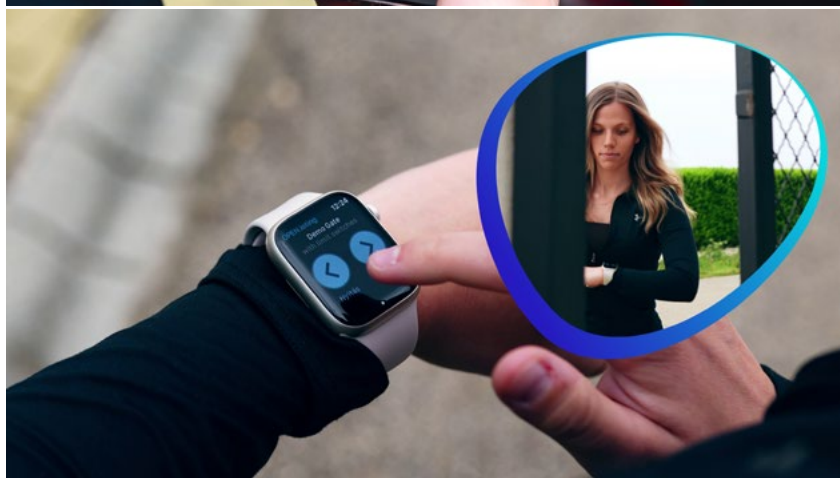
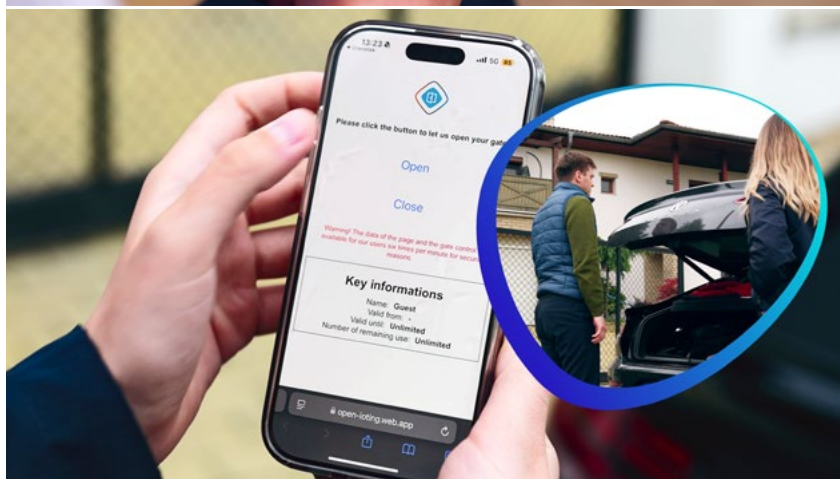


MANAGEMENT

The app distinguishes between two types of users: the owner and invited users. The owner has the highest level of rights. They can configure device settings and add users. Family members in a household, colleagues at a company, or whatever you wish. The first 50 users are free. The number of users can be expanded to 100 or 500 for a one time fee. This scalability makes the solution suitable not only for households but also for larger communities and business environments. The owner invites users via email or a QR code. Users then receive a link to the app. If they install it, they gain access to the opening functions but not to the managing features.

SPEED

The opening functions are not only in the app. "Operating the gate with an app is already very convenient," says Kiącz. "You always have your phone with you, so you never have to search for a remote control. But you still have to take your phone out of your pocket, unlock it, launch the app, and then open the gate. We thought that could be faster. That's why we made the app compatible with Siri Shortcuts. That means you can either add a button to your home screen to open the gate, or – even faster – just tell Siri to open the gate for you." Besides Apple's ecosystem, OPEN. ioting also integrates with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant. This allows users of those platforms to simply say a voice command to open or close their gates.





CONVENIENT

For those who find it annoying to talk to their phone, there is also an app for the Apple Watch, allowing you to add the app icon to your Watch Face. “You then get a button on your dial,” says Kiácz. “You press it, and then you get two large buttons to open or close the gate. This way, you can keep your phone in your pocket and still operate your gate super quickly. And the main app now also works with Apple Car Play, giving you a button on the display of your car.” The latest convenient feature of OPEN.ioting is that you can also receive a notification if you leave the gate open for too long or if it fails to close. “If you have connected the limit switches of the gate to the unit to always show the status of the gate, the app can also send you a message if the gate stays open longer than a certain time. Sometimes that is the intention, but usually not. You can set the time after which the unit should notify you via Push message.”

TECHNOLOGY

The OPEN.ioting unit gets its Internet connection via the user's home network, either through Wi-Fi or an Ethernet cable. The unit does not need a SIM card. “The Internet is available almost everywhere these days,” says Kiácz. “Both in businesses and in households. By not including a GSM modem and the accompanying SIM card, we ensure that the unit is attractively priced for every gate owner.” The unit has two relays currently suited to control one gate. “Some control boards have separate inputs for opening and closing, which can be operated with the two relay outputs in this case.” There are three contact inputs on the unit: two for limit switches and one to connect a separate opener or a push-button. “If your gate control does not have enough connections and, for instance, you need to disconnect the remote receiver to connect the OPEN.ioting unit, you can still connect the remote receiver to our unit. That works as well.” The OPEN.ioting app is available for iOS and WatchOS from Apple and for Android from Google.

VS

	OPEN.ioting	OPEN.ioting POWER+
Dimensions (with terminal block)	11,2 x 9,2 x 3,8 cm	10 x 8,7 x 3 cm
DIN rail mounting	✗	✓
Power supply	85-240V AC PoE	12-24V AC 12-30V DC
Built-in power supply	✓	✗
External antenna	✗	✓
Internet connection	WiFi, LAN	WiFi, LAN
Operating mode and limit switch configuration	hardware-based (DIP switch)	software-based (in the app)
Functions	identical	identical

- Dimensions (with terminal block)**
- DIN rail mounting**
- Power supply**
- Built-in power supply**
- External antenna**
- Internet connection**
- Operating mode and limit switch configuration**
- Functions**

POWER+

The new version of the OPEN.ioting is called Power+. It is an extension of the existing version, which is still available. “Due to its great success, we now introduce the next-generation OPEN.ioting. One of the most notable improvements of the Power+ is its wireless connectivity,” says Kiącz. “The new model features an external antenna, ensuring a more stable Wi-Fi connection, even in areas with weak signals. This is particularly beneficial for users who need to install the device inside a metal enclosure, as built-in antennas often struggle with signal transmission in such cases.” The power supply has also seen significant upgrades: The new model is has no built-in 230 Volt AC power supply unit like the first model, but operates within a 12 to 24 Volt AC range, or a 12 to 30 Volt DC range. “This offers greater flexibility for installers, allowing seamless integration into the low-voltage electrical systems of the gate controls that they install.” Thanks to its compact design, the Power+ is also DIN-rail-mountable.



GEOFENCE

The mobile app used to manage and control the device's operation, also got updated. “New enhancements make it even more intuitive,” Kiącz says. “The app now also offers light and dark mode options, allowing users to personalize their interface preferences, and we’ve built in geofencing, that allows users to let their gate open automatically, when they approach their home or workplace. This is particularly useful for those who travel the same route daily, as it eliminates the need to manually trigger the gate – opening happens fully automatically.” The new OPEN.iotingPower+ device has been available since this summer. ■



FENCES NEWS



THE UGLIEST HOUSE IN ENGLAND GETS A NEW FENCE

Windsor,
UK

Windsor, Great Britain – In August it was announced that Forest Lodge in Windsor Great Park, a little west of London, will become the new residence of the British heir to the throne, William, and his wife Kate, together with their children Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis. One of the park's entrances – Cranbourne Gate – was therefore closed to the public in October, and because a future king naturally needs a somewhat dignified garden for his daily jog, a 60-hectare section

of the park is now being closed off to the public with a new four-kilometre-long fence.

If the fencer who installed that fence happens to be reading this: is William generous with tips, or a bit of a miser? Here in the editorial office we mostly wonder what on earth the English crown prince must have done to be housed in the ugliest house in England. Wasn't there anywhere in that vast British realm a nice little castle where a future king could live with his family in at least a bit of style?



BERLIN BUILDS USELESS FENCE AGAINST NUISANCE

Berlin,
Germany

Berlin, Germany – This summer in Berlin construction began on one of Germany's most controversial fences, one that has been the subject of heated debate for more than two years: the fence around Görlitzer Park in Berlin-Kreuzberg. In that park there is considerable drug dealing and people are regularly violently robbed — annually more than 1000 criminal offenses occur, including 190 violent ones in the past year. In a healthy society the government would in such a case try to tackle the crime. The police would pick up drug dealers — or better yet: entire drug networks — and lock them up. But yeah, Berlin is in Europe, so you know the things aren't necessarily handled with logic. Instead, a fence is being installed around the park. Which

means: gaps in the wall around the park will be sealed and gates will be placed at the entrances. That way the park can be closed at night, so that the drug dealers and violent offenders will move elsewhere at night to deal drugs and commit violence.

Among the opponents are some people with common sense, who — rightfully — say the fence is a waste of money. That the problem is merely being relocated, if you don't tackle the crime itself. But the majority of demonstrators consist of people who now can no longer hang around in the park: people who never work or contribute to society in any other way, but who spend whole days and nights happily smoking weed in the park. They have demonstrated

very enthusiastically in the past year: they held full-blown techno parties with loud music and lots of drugs and alcohol, always leaving huge piles of rubbish behind — always properly registered as a demonstration so the police could hardly act without infringing on demonstration rights. It got to the point where residents held protests against the protests. Anyway: the fence is going ahead now. It should be in place by December. We checked Google Maps: the nearest next park in Berlin is the Schlesischer Busch. We guess that the criminals and all the other hopeless folks from Berlin will now at night relocate there — maybe in 2026 or 2027 a fence will go up there then. We're curious.



The most beautiful park in Berlin. Photo: Uli Hermann.

Where the following story took place, we don't know – it comes from Facebook. Whether it actually happened, we don't know either, but it's a good enough story to be worth telling. The story takes place in a country with strict laws and regulations about fences. What happened? A young couple bought a house with a nice fence around it. But they hadn't lived there for even six months when a winter storm blew the fence crooked. It leaned heavily over onto the neighbours' property. The couple stopped by to explain that they were planning to redo the garden in the spring anyway, and that they would have a new, nice fence installed then. It made no sense to do it now, since part of the work would just have to be redone. Besides, it was winter and too cold outside. The neighbour disagreed. He complained to the local authorities that his neighbours' fence did not comply with regulations.

Someone from the municipality came to take a look and confirmed that the fence was indeed leaning



far over the neighbours' property. He ordered the couple to make sure their fence complied with local regulations again as soon as possible.

So what was really the neighbour's problem? He didn't particularly mind looking at a few crooked fence panels in winter. But the neighbour had a swimming pool. And in the municipality where this story takes place, swimming pools must be fenced – so that (neighbourhood) children can't fall in. So he wanted his

neighbours to fix their fence quickly, so he wouldn't be fined for not having a fence around his pool. But of course, such a fence isn't the responsibility of a pair of random new neighbours. So what did the young couple do?

As soon as they realised what their neighbour's real problem was, they simply removed the crooked fence altogether. The result: the neighbour had to put up his own fence to comply with the municipal swimming-pool regulations. Problem solved. ■

Not the fence
in the story

NEIGHBOUR PAYS FOR NEW FENCE



BARBED-WIRE FENCE STOPS DRUNK DRIVER

Grand
Mound,
Washington

Grand Mound, Washington – A 22-year-old man ended up upside down in a barbed-wire fence after fleeing from deputies of the Thurston County Sheriff's Office in Washington State. In the early hours of October 11, a deputy tried to stop a vehicle driving recklessly on Old Highway 99. When the driver was signalled to pull over, he took off at 120 miles per hour (about 190 kilometres per hour). He then attempted to

enter Interstate 5 going the wrong way, lost control of the vehicle, and crashed into a ditch.

A foot chase followed — nearly 300 metres across all lanes of the I-5 — when a second deputy joined in. The man was finally stopped by what Derek Sanders, sheriff of Grand Mound, described to the local press as “a strategically placed barbed-wire fence.” The suspect, who was heavily intoxicated, proceeded to vomit on the deputy's

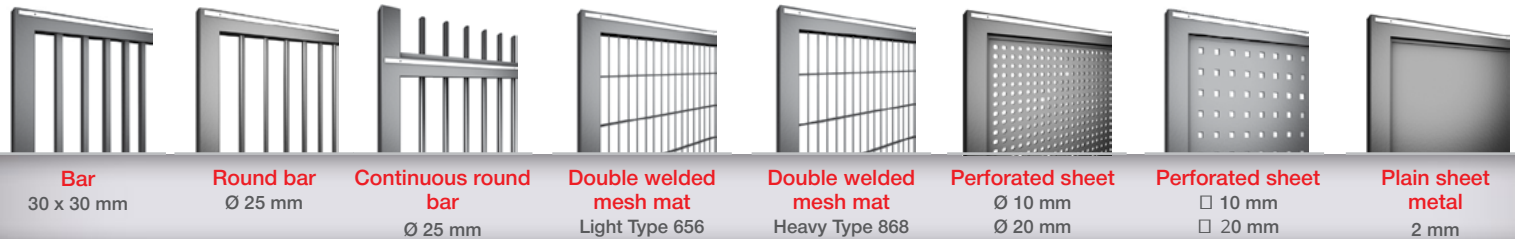
pants and boots – and on the back seat of the patrol car. After being checked at the hospital, he was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence, driving with a suspended licence, obstructing law enforcement, reckless endangerment, and attempting to elude police. The barbed-wire fence emerged from the incident unscathed. ■



HOLLER

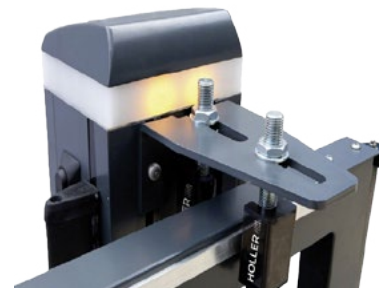
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