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IT security from Germany for high-security machine networks

Plant manufacturer OPTIMA secures remote machine maintenance and networks with a new security solution from LANCOM

Aachen, November 3, 2021—The OPTIMA packaging group GmbH will in future base the remote maintenance and protection of their customers' machines and systems on a security solution from the German network and security specialist LANCOM Systems. The core of the new solution is a next generation firewall, which was developed in cooperation with OPTIMA especially for industrial environments. It will in future be used in all machines and systems produced by the manufacturer from Schwäbisch Hall, Germany, and it can be retrofitted to lines that were purchased previously. The project was supported by the system integrator and service provider Communication Systems GmbH.

At the heart of the new security solution is the LANCOM R&S® Unified Firewall UF-T60, which in future will be used on every new OPTIMA line. The firewall monitors and logs remote-maintenance activities on the customer's machines, and it can be used for the segmentation of machine networks. The hardware is specially hardened for use in harsh industrial environments. An encrypted VPN ensures secure communication, which significantly increases the security level of the entire network. Delivered cloud-ready, the firewall is easily and securely implemented in the customer network with just a few clicks by means of the LANCOM Management Cloud (LMC). All data traffic is logged and monitored.

“We took a close look at the solutions from various security providers and had intensive discussions. In the end, we decided on LANCOM as the manufacturer. The finished solution is the result of months of development work invested by LANCOM and by us. It was a major challenge for everyone involved, but it was good fun working together,” says Dr. Benjamin Häfner, Group Leader of Industrial IT at OPTIMA.

“Together with OPTIMA, we have developed a unique solution that promises a level of security that is outstanding on the market for the industrial and manufacturing sector. Particularly in an area as sensitive as the machine network—which is a direct interface to the customer's network—maximum security is hugely important,” says Markus Irle, Vice President Firewall & Security at LANCOM Systems.

About the OPTIMA packaging group:

Optima supports companies worldwide with flexible and customer-specific filling and packaging machines in markets for pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, paper hygiene, and medical devices. As a provider of solutions and systems, Optima accompanies these companies from the product idea through to successful production and throughout the entire machine life cycle. Over 2,650 experts around the globe contribute to Optima's success. 19 locations in Germany and abroad ensure the worldwide availability of services.

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About LANCOM Systems:

LANCOM Systems GmbH is a leading European manufacturer of network and security solutions for business and the public sector. The portfolio includes hardware (WAN, LAN, WLAN, firewalls), virtual network components, and cloud-based software-defined networking (SDN).

Software and hardware development as well as manufacturing take place mainly in Germany, as does the hosting of the network management. There is a strong focus on trustworthiness and security. The company is committed to products that are free from backdoors and is a holder of the trust mark "IT Security Made in Germany" as initiated by the German Ministry of Economics.

LANCOM was founded in 2002 and has its headquarters in Würselen near Aachen, Germany. Customers include SMEs, government agencies, institutions, and major corporations from all over the world. Since summer 2018, the company has been an independent subsidiary of the Munich-based technology group Rohde & Schwarz.

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