

Press Release

Erste Group transitions to a flexible work environment with GANTNER

After five years construction time on a 25,000m² area and an approximate investment of 300 million Euros, the Erste Group, one of Europe's largest financial service providers, has a new, modern headquarters. Centrally located in Vienna at the former site of Vienna's South and East Railway station, the new office is home to an approximate 4,500 employees. For the task of designing and providing a versatile, modern storage solution, GANTNER Technologies, a leading manufacturer of Near-Field-Communication (NFC) locking systems, is pleased to announce the selection of its networked system.

Employees at the new headquarters, known as the First Campus, are not allocated desks, but can instead choose any area where they'd like to work. Given this office design, the Erste Group required a secure, unbureaucratic storage system, where employees could easily secure their belongings and documents. "The requirement was a single, endlessly expandable electronic locking system, capable of being used for both postal and locker applications," stated Dieter Lang, Erste Campus Manager. Specific system requirements included:

- Full integration with building, security, and personnel management softwares
- The ability to use staff ID cards as locker keys
- The flexibility to make a locker freely available, to individually assign, or give multiple employees access to the same locker
- An integrated alarm and complete lock history
- An almost invisible, flush mounted locking system

For these demands, the First Campus and numerous bank branches in Vienna were equipped with cabinetry fitted with GANTNER's networked locking system. Using their ID badges, employees can freely select a cabinet at one of the many banks, conveniently located next to working areas. Cabinets' real-time occupancy and alarm status and usage statistics are displayed in the GAT Relaxx software, used to manage the entire locking system. Thanks to integration with the bank's additional softwares, authorization data for the bank's 4,500 employees are automatically transferred to the GANTNER system.

It happens daily that employees either lose or forget their staff id-cards at home. So that employees can automatically use a newly issued card with their unit, GAT Relaxx and the Erste Group's management software are fully integrated. Once a new card is issued, the old card remains valid until the temporary card has been deleted. This key interface saves administration and personnel costs.

In addition to personal storage, the Erste Group required specialized solutions for postal boxes and bicycle storage. In the Erste Group mail room, 600 mailboxes, secured by a GAT NET.Lock system, ensure the private, secure, non-bureaucratic distribution of mail. Mailboxes can be allocated to an individual employee or shared by a defined group of people (for example, an entire department, or all assistants, etc.) The system ensures that in an office building, where there are no assigned desks, mail reaches the correct addressee without any logistical problems. Personnel demands are reduced, whilst security is increased.

In the bicycle storage room, staff showers and lockers are available for daily commuters. Because these lockers cannot be continuously occupied but are only available for 30 minutes, staff must, after showering and dressing, quickly free their locker for the next user. This strict time limit ensures both locker availability and reduces the amount of necessary lockers.

Satisfaction with GANTNER's unique solution is very high. "During the project, the contact between Gantner, the project manager and the technicians was very good and constructive. Thanks to the close collaboration with GANTNER, the project was implemented on schedule and the installation is running virtually trouble-free at about 16,500 daily locker," states Lang.

With GANTNER's intelligent electronic locking solution, the Erste Campus could optimally implement a modern, flexible approach to working. Since the GANTNER system is already prepared for the latest technology developments (keyword Near-Field-Communication or NFC) and can at any time be expanded and adapted, GANTNER promises an optimal, long-term solution with guaranteed security of investment.

About The Erste Group

Founded in 1819 as the first Austrian savings bank, the Erste Group Bank serves 15.7 million clients in more than 2,700 branches in 7 countries. After going public on the Viennese stock exchange in 1997, the company expanded its retail business into Central and Eastern Europe. Since then Erste Group has grown through numerous acquisitions and organic growth to one of the largest financial services providers in the Eastern part of the EU in terms of clients and total assets. <https://www.erstegroup.com/en/home>

About GANTNER

Established in 1982 in the Austrian winter sports resort of Schruns, GANTNER draws on over 30 years of experience to create the world's most complete and innovative line of Near Field Communication (NFC) locking solutions for cabinetry and lockers. GANTNER's innovative locking systems are valued across many industries, including offices, hospitals, universities, commercial, and leisure facilities. From battery-operated to networked locking systems, GANTNER has developed an integrated solution for every storage application. With subsidiaries in Germany, the UK, Dubai, and Australia, the company operates in over 60 countries and has a worldwide workforce of more than 200. Elmar Hartmann has been managing director since 2003. <http://www.gantner.com/en/>