

State-of-the-art energy and space management in Austria's Ferry Porsche Congress Center

# The best among the congress centers

The Ferry Porsche Congress Center in Zell am See, Austria is an excellent example of how buzz words like comfort factor, energy efficiency and sustainability are not always empty promises. The multi-functional building has room for up to a thousand visitors and impresses event and conference managers with its almost unlimited flexibility in space configuration. The prerequisite for this is an innovative building control system, which was implemented with intelligent, integral building automation technology throughout from Beckhoff.

The modern architecture of the building, consisting of two interpenetrating cuboids, was designed by the two German architectural firms Perler & Scheurer and Giesecke & Schetter. The FPCC facility opened in 2007 after a construction period of just 14 months.





Photo: Ferry Porsche Congress Center

Opened in summer 2007 after a construction phase lasting just 14 months, the Ferry Porsche Congress Center (FPCC) wins visitors over with its concept of modern architecture, innovative technology, flexible interior layout. "The FPCC offers more than 2,100 square meters of space for concerts, conferences or private parties," says Alexander Höller, Managing Director of the Ferry Porsche Congress Center. "Thanks to sliding walls, up to 32 different room configurations are possible, ranging from 33 m<sup>2</sup> as the smallest unit up to 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> as the largest," reports Alexander Höller. "The environment in each room can be individually controlled, from the lighting, to the ventilation, and to the provision of shade. The FPCC building is essentially a dream, the envy of many in the industry."

### Improved energy and management efficiency

The basis of this flexibility is the building automation – which is where the automation expertise from Beckhoff factors in. "With the Beckhoff system, the building technician has at their disposal an array of tools with which they can make each individual discipline such as the HVAC, lighting, shading etc. communicate with one another and interconnect intelligently," explains Christian Pillwein, Head of Building Automation at Beckhoff Austria, detailing the advantages of the PC- and Ethernet-based solution. "With the FPCC, we wanted to plan and build an exceptionally efficient building. For me, the point was not to have as much technology as possible, but only as much technology as necessary," comments Claus Salzmann, Proprietor of the



planning office ETS and responsible for the planning of the FPCC. "In many buildings, widely differing HVAC and electrical systems are used in parallel, which creates additional costs in the areas of energy and management. Starting with the lighting, continuing with the ventilation and the access control and right up to the stage technology, our aim was to automate comprehensively, to monitor, and thereby to optimize."

This was made possible by perfect interplay between all the participants: investors, building operators, and architects, the planner Claus Salzmann, Schubert Elektroanlagen GmbH, who performed the work on site, ABM Systems, who took over the programming and visualization, and Beckhoff as the supplier of the automation solution. To give some idea of the planning and cabling work, Johann Buresch from Schubert Elektroanlagen provides a few numbers. "We laid a total of approximately 72,000 meters of cable. On top of that, there are around 10,000 meters of data cables, about 15,000 meters of cable for the stage technology, 214 automatic fire detectors and 24 pushbutton alarms as well as 2,600 lineal meters of heating and plumbing pipes."

#### **Adaptable and user-friendly**

"Right from the beginning, the system's user-friendliness and flexibility were all-important to us. We didn't need to know what processes and computer programs were running in the background. It is vital for us

that the system works, is easy to use and is equipped for the future; in other words, that it can be extended," says Alexander Höller from the FPCC. To ensure this flexibility and ease of use, a modern and intelligent building-management system is needed. The control platform consists of five CX1000 Embedded PCs from Beckhoff, to which the Bus Terminals are directly connected. A total of 5,800 software data points are captured. The building network is entirely Ethernet-based. The numerous interfaces in the Beckhoff Bus Terminal system enable almost all building bus systems to be connected, such as EIB/KNX, MP-Bus, DALI, RS-485, etc. The operator or user of the building therefore has the complete flexibility to implement additional improvements in the areas of energy efficiency or comfort, for example.

Monitoring and operation are managed through 10 Beckhoff CP6700 touch panels. The functions that have been incorporated in the building management system are diverse and range from HVAC control through intelligent lighting control to multimedia integration and even stage technology. At the controller level, the complete control and regulation technology was implemented with time-saving function blocks that are included in the TwinCAT software library. "The Beckhoff system offers the full functionality of a modern building management system from operation, visualization, configuration, data recording and analysis, all the way into alert management," says Gerald Weixlbaum, Head of Sales at ABM Systems.



The Ferry Porsche Congress Center team with the award for the "Best Conference Venue 2010": (left to right) Michael Bischof, Nicole Heinze, Alexander Höller, Elisabeth Hechenberger, Roman Radmoser.

### **FPCC wins international competition**

Winning the Europe's Best Conference Centre award proves that the planning and implementation of the Ferry Porsche Congress Center (FPCC) was completed with a world class finish. Each year the British trade magazine "New European Economy" honors outstanding achievements and visionary service providers in the business and financial world. In 2010 an independent expert jury named four finalists in each of five different categories for the competition. Beating impressive rivals from Germany and Norway, the winner of the award for "Best Conference Venue 2010" was the FPCC in Zell am See.

### **Further Information:**

[www.fpcc.at](http://www.fpcc.at)

[www.abm-systems.com](http://www.abm-systems.com)

[www.beckhoff.at](http://www.beckhoff.at)