

# DC MAG

MAGAZINE OF THE DC-DATACENTER-GROUP



## Green IT

# How data centers become more sustainable



### MAIN DC: Just-in-time handover

All three construction phases completed in only two years



### Daring to look to the future

Dr. Ralph Hintemann reports on current market developments



### New standards set

DCG realizes sustainable high-performance data center in Duisburg-Wedau

# CONTENT

## 02 Foreword

## 04 Green IT

The "green" factor

## 06 References

- MAIN DC
- Bank11
- envia TEL
- DCC Duisburg CityCom

## 18 RZproducts

Container solutions

## 20 Sales

- DCG sales team
- Market insight Latin America
- Africa Business Guide

## 26 Interview

Talk with the DCG quotation management

## 29 7 questions to...

...the team „service data centers“ of RZservices

## 30 Interview

Talk with Dr. Ralph Hintemann, Borderstep Institute for Innovation and Sustainability

## 33 Company News

- Small Business-Knigge
- New employees
- Anniversaries
- Imprint

# WITH POWER AND MOTIVATION INTO THE NEW YEAR 2022

Dear readers, dear DCG team,  
dear business friends,

we can overcome any crisis when we stand together. This was already stated in our last DC MAG's foreword. And the past months have proved this once again: Up to now the team of the DATA CENTER GROUP (DCG) has passed this crisis with flying colors. During the last year, the pandemic caused of course considerable restrictions and challenges on many levels. But thanks to proactive planning, perfectly coordinated teamwork, a strong partner network – first and foremost our shareholder and partner MVV Enamic – and the trusting relationship with our customers we were once again able to realize numerous successful projects. And beyond that, we have already started with the planning of many further projects.

In 2021 we were able to beat the already economically outstanding year 2020 thanks to our competent team and strong partners. Many new team members joined the DCG and their expertise contributed to our strength. We are ready for the future and looking forward to it.

Our projects are as unique as our customers. But there is one similarity through all sectors: With our careful consulting and planning they are all future-proof and sustainable. For that reason, we dedicate this DC MAG edition to the topic of sustainability and take a closer look at the topic's facets with diverse project reports, interviews and featured articles that will give you an insight into our expertise. And of course, our numerous partners that work closely with us on a trusting eye level, will be heard.

One of our many examples is the project MAIN DC Offenbach. We report on the successful project completion and processes that were not commonplace during the execution of the construction.

Many team members have already been on board for many years and experience the changes in daily life. We report on DCG's supply management team, which is experiencing these developments at close quarters. In the interview, we shed light on the trends and explain the challenges in daily business.

Dr. Ralph Hintemann, who has been dedicated to the research of the data center sector for many years, reports on sustainability and current market developments in our expert interview. The senior researcher at the Borderstep Institute for Innovation and Sustainability dares to look into the future of the data center market together with us.

In this DC MAG edition, the RZservices team "service data centers" gets introduced in our column "7 questions to...", giving a glance behind the scenes of the daily working life in a constantly changing sector and thus the upcoming challenges. This underlines once more our strengths: We convince with trusting partnership at eye level, flexibility and short reaction phases.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers and partners for their trust and the great cooperation. Of course, my thanks also go to our partner and shareholder MVV Enamic GmbH, who works trustfully side by side with us on comprehensive and flexible solutions around energy and energy efficiency. At this point, I would also like to especially thank all our employees. This year they have once again demonstrated that together we can achieve anything, today and in the future: The DCG success story continues!

I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, a lot of happiness and above all good health!



  
Ralf Siefen  
CEO / Management  
DATA CENTER GROUP



# THE "GREEN" FACTOR: SUSTAINABLE DATA CENTERS IN THE ERA OF DIGITALIZATION

■ In 2020 only German data centers consumed a total of 16 billion kilowatt hours of energy. According to researcher Dr. Ralph Hintemann of the Borderstep Institute for Innovation and Sustainability, the energy demand has increased by 1 billion kWh compared to 2019<sup>1</sup> resulting in a CO2 emission of 6.5 million tons (Strommix Deutschland 2020). These facts combined with increasing digitalization raises the question: How can data centers become compatible with sustainability and climate protection?

Starting where others stop thinking and offering tailored solutions is important. Important factors such as strategy, security and efficiency in the view of sustainability have top priority at DATA CENTER GROUP. Providers who offer infrastructures such as data centers must aim to protect customer data. But at the same time, they also have to design sustainable processes and prepare IT infrastructures for future challenges.

## Digitalization, data hunger and energy management

Sustainability – a keyword with an influence on trendsetting data center construction like no other. Already in 2020, the annual energy consumption of IKT in Germany was 58.4 terrawatt hours as per reports on the German and global energy consumption and CO2 emission by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Especially the enormous energy consumption of more than 16 billion kilowatt hours emphasizes the importance of access to regenerative energy, for instance from wind, hydro, solar, biomass and geothermal power plants. In their customers'

data centers, DATA CENTER GROUP does not only regulate the systems but also guarantees clean monitoring while taking care of the energy management. This requires an analytical information tool that recognizes the maintenance rhythms of the data center facilities in advance. In the view of cooling, this concerns the anticipatory adjustment to seasonal temperature changes.

## Green IT is a decisive competitive advantage

The PUE (Power Usage Effectiveness) value clarifies the energy efficiency between the energy consumption of a data center and the whole IT infrastructure. Data centers operate energy-efficiently and sustainably if the PUE value is as low as possible. The current average value for German data centers is 1.63. The PUE value of the latest DCG major project – Main DC Offenbach – is comparatively low. The high-availability data center shows a PUE value of 1.2 and thus has an outstanding environmental balance sheet standing out from the competitive average.

## Tested and awarded: sustainable data centers "Made in Germany"

Since 2019 the eco label "Blue Angel for energy-efficient data center operation" stipulates a minimal value of 8 for the annual performance factor and a maximum PUE of 1.3. In order to be awarded the "Blue Angel" for data centers only halogen-free refrigerants must be used. "The Blue Angel - which is now also available for colocation data centers - is that important as it is the only certification option that also specifies binding criteria for data center energy performance, both infrastructure and IT", says Dr. Dieter Thiel, Senior Consultant Energy Concepts at DATA CENTER GROUP. Standards and Guidelines, such as DIN EN 50600 for data center certification, also regulate the procedure for sustainable data center construction.

## Waste heat utilization in data centers: How to effectively exploit energy-saving potentials

"The addition of waste heat potential of large and medium-sized data centers in Germany provides a total energy amount sufficient to heat 1.2 million medium-sized flats", emphasizes Dr. Dieter Thiel. The usage of data center waste heat on an economically relevant range requires solutions for waste heat temperature levels of 25 °C occurring in air-cooled data centers. In the near future they will achieve a market share of 90 %. At present, singular solutions and light-house projects relying, among other things,

on the use of artificial intelligence mark the technical possibilities – but up to now without significant multiplication options. In Germany, waste heat utilization for space heating on a larger scale is practically non-existent. However, innovative sustainability concepts taking effective methods for post-heating utilization into account already exist in various forms such as algae farms, hydroponics, vegetable cultivation or fish fattening in industrial plants and modules. These are only a few examples of concrete waste heat utilization concepts.

## Sustainable data center concepts are the only logical step towards future

It goes without saying that only "green" data centers are sustainable and future-proof. In addition to concrete figures measuring energy efficiency, other factors such as consulting, sustainable construction planning and implementation, energy-efficient solutions, energy-saving use of resources and smart monitoring play a decisive role. At DCG, the focus is on considering projects in an individual way and working them out accordingly. When implementing data center projects, it is essential to always have a good mix of own experts and external partners.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Ralph Hintemann: Cloud Computing benefits from the crisis. Energy demand of data centers keeps increasing despite Corona; Borderstep Institute for Innovation and Sustainability.

Editor's note: This press release was first published as a technical article under the title "The "Green" Factor: Sustainable Data Centers in the Era of Digitalization" in dotmagazine 09/2021.



” Our strong teamwork enabled us to realize the project Main DC just-in-time. We can be proud of the result. “

Ralf Siefen  
CEO/DATA CENTER GROUP



EVO • VANTAGE DATA CENTERS • DATA CENTER GROUP

## ENTHUSIASTICALLY MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER WITH THE DCG TEAM

■ In their interview with the DC MAG editors, Christian Tigges (project manager MAIN DC) and Franz Rebmann (project manager technical building equipment) report of the successful completion and unusual processes during the realization of the construction project MAIN DC – Data Center in Offenbach.



Final milestone mastered: The new Data Center of Main DC on the EVO premises - which is located close to the world's largest internet exchange point in Frankfurt - is completed.

The new data center of Main DC on the premises of the energy provider Offenbach (EVO) – which is located close to the world's largest internet exchange point DE-CIX in Frankfurt is completed. On an area of 4,500 sqm over 5 floors one of Germany's most modern data centers was built on an inner-city site area of only about 7,800 sqm and provides a building complex complying to Best Practices for approximately 3,000 racks with 42 height units each. On 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2021 the last milestone and commissioning by a globally operating hyperscale final customer from the GAFAM\* group took place after only two years of construction. A good moment to look back on a successful and eventful course of the project.

\*GAFAM – Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Microsoft



"The MAIN DC project presented us with major challenges, but we tackled all the issues with focus right from the start and, most importantly, we came together as a team extremely quickly. In projects of this magnitude, it's essential to build trust and enthusiasm among the employees and the various trades. Projects in general, and especially those of this magnitude with an ambitious 'sporty' schedule, can only be realized professionally in cooperation with committed employees at eye-level," says Christian Tigges during the conversation in Offenbach.

"This already started when obtaining the building permit, where we were able to implement the wishes of the building authorities, such as the design of the façade and consideration for a listed building on the site with sensible suggestions by DCG. Furthermore, the construction logistics in an inner-city area on a confined site area is a challenge for all parties involved in the construction."

While the work on the data center was in full swing, Christian Tigges and his core team were always alternating between the construction site and in the construction site office, the control center, where coordination took place. "The construction schedule, regularly updated by Birgit Nies, shows us exactly where we stand in the project and which next important steps are on the agenda. No two days are the same, but we have such a great team network that we can react quickly to deviations and initiate appropriate measures."

**Team play and know-how convince**

"In addition to DCG's expert know-how regarding air-conditioning, electrical engineering, building management and construction technology and much more, this team play is our greatest strength. From the idea to the planning, it goes 'hand in hand' up to the 'just-in-time' execution. Many processes can be optimally shortened in this way," emphasizes Christian Tigges. He already has many years of experience in the construction industry and knows exactly what is important when planning a project of this size: "A particularly important factor is to find partners and suppliers who will support the tight schedule as they also take a certain risk with it. This concession is particularly important in times of a pandemic, which is also characterized by shortages of materials and raw materials. Fortunately, we have a reliable network and can build on strong partnerships."

” I pay respect to the entire team. Each and every one contributed to the outstanding project realization. “

Christian Tigges  
Project Management MAIN DC



The use of an intelligent, 3D supported planning enabled us to provide a high degree of prefabrication so that large modular units could be assembled 'ready-to-use' under the direction of Jörg Munker. Thanks to this circumstance 'only' the connection work took place on the building itself. We are familiar with the data center industry and its players; our special strength: we are a medium-sized company characterized by flexibility and agility. And our partners can rely on us. It is extremely important to have a very open and transparent communication as well as a close coordination with the colleagues from the departments purchase and finance, the technical

office, both managing directors Ralf Siefen and Frank Ernst and of course with many other persons involved at the headquarters" underlines Christian Tigges. "All the different trades interlock and that makes us fast and flexible", adds Franz Rebmann: "The TGA (technical building equipment) team starts planning from top to bottom, while the building construction team starts with the floor slab. In practice, this means for example, that the holes for the downpipes in the floor slab have to be precisely coordinated in advance. Many processes can be extremely shortened by this strategic cooperation. But this can only be done if you work as a team."



The team in Offenbach succeeded in mastering the challenge of coordinating numerous topics at the same time.



A total of 80 connected cooling units illustrates once more the somewhat different dimension of the project.



2,500 data points record temperatures, air humidity and many other values for the Building Management System.



In the interview with the DC MAG editorial, Franz Rebmann (l.) draws the picture of the daily work on an extraordinary site.

**Facts & Figures around the Data Center**

- 25 MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) performance
- 8,000 sqm server space in 12 IT halls
- 20 container emergency power supply units, rated power of 2,300 kilo Volt Ampere each
- 6,720 batteries provide an autonomy time of up to 10 minutes
- 40 static units for uninterruptable power supply
- 60 low voltage switching stations
- 80 cooling units provide a cooling capacity of 203 kW each
- Area-wide monitoring, smoke detectors and nitrogen extinguishing systems

**PUE = 1,17\***  
(Power usage effectiveness)

**3 heat pumps**  
for waste heat recovery

**Cold utilization**  
for chilled water systems

**Heat utilization**  
for room air conditioning (RLT) and Fan Coils for the office area

\*At present, the average PUE value for German data centers is 1.63



**Mastering the challenge of coordinating numerous topics at the same time**

From May 2019 this challenge especially came up when the win of a hyperscale customer caused the complete change of the project. Thus, the IT load increased from the formerly scheduled performance of 13.5 to 15.3 MW with a total connected load 25 MW. This was the most challenging part: The team that was responsible for the technical building equipment around Stefan Krämer adjusted the "screws" in parallel with the execution planning while the construction process was ongoing.

Due to the American end customer all construction meetings and negotiations were held in English. Temporary solutions had to be implemented as a consequence of partial commissioning and additionally the responsibilities changed during construction. The operator's team also took over areas where work still needed to be done. Deconstructions of temporary solutions had to be formulated in writing in advance by DCG as well as the previously notified personnel. In case of approval execution could take place several days later.

The corona pandemic was of course another unexpected factor that threatened the project progress. But we immediately worked out a comprehensive hygienic concept, accommodation and sanitary facilities for installers were increased and everything was scheduled to enable the teams of the different trades to work in a way that complied with the corona regulations. And just like that, online meetings were integrated into daily work in the shortest time. As all team members stuck together this challenged could - despite considerable additional organizational effort - completely be mastered without any delay. And in view of the high degree of prefabrication we were proven: hard work and good preparation pay off. In this context it is important to underline, that none of the workers became ill either in the subcontracting trades or on the construction site itself.

In general, the construction site can shine with very good work protection. Until today no major accidents took place due to the coordinating security and health care plan - even though up to 150 workers from the different trades were active on the construction site at the same time.



To the actual general contractor order, in which DATA CENTER GROUP proves its strength as planner and executing company for the realization of data centers, various extension orders for the server rooms were added, in each case adapted to the end customer. These were carried out as independent measures by the team around Markus Böhmer (division manager proRZ) with high quality and to the fullest satisfaction of the hyperscaler.

For the last project milestone on 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2021, all forces were once again bundled in order to also complete the final work such as dismantling the scaffolding and construction elevators, asphalt work and fence construction in the outdoor facilities as well as the commissioning of the last components, acceptance by the building authority and the project documentation.

Thus, our team Offenbach was relaxed about the final date. "We know that we can rely on each other. With the execution quality praised by the end customer and a measured 'Power Usage Effectiveness' value (PUE) less than 1.2, DCG has succeeded in building one of the most modern and sustainable data centers in Europe. These results further increase the team spirit and make us strong in our doing", says Christian Tigges.

Supply bottlenecks caused by the accident of a container ship in the Suez Canal could be compensated by alternative products and accelerated on-site assembly. For this very reason, the acceptance at the end of October was a special event for the entire team. "We are so relaxed about the date because the main equipment is on site, we work out intelligent technical solutions, we have a very good purchasing policy and under the management of Tim Klein and Mario Müller assembly works are right on schedule. But there is also a little nostalgic, because we have really grown very close together."

"Everyone must be up for such a project, otherwise it won't work. With a team like this you move forward with enthusiasm", emphasizes Franz Rebmann. "But we're also already thinking ahead and looking forward to tackling the next projects together. There are already other major projects, especially in the Rhine-Main region, that are in the planning stage and we are already in the starting blocks to realize the infrastructure for further necessary computing capacities for tasks such as cloud solutions, the Internet of Things, Smart Cities, Autonomous driving, Industry 4.0 - to name just a few - in sustainable planned and executed building complexes", says Christian Tigges.

**„ A strong team performance that demonstrated DCG's potential in the implementation of the MAIN DC project. “**

Jörg Munker  
Site Manager MAIN DC



"As a result of the various 'in time' partial start-ups we became more and more sure to reach the overall completion and to finish the project after a construction period of only 2 years to hand over this state-of-the-art service data center - partly under American acceptance conditions - for full use to the hyperscale end customer from the USA.

**Facts & Figures of construction**

-  Construction period of only **2 years**
-  Total space of **22,000 sqm**
-  **13,000 cbm** of steel and concrete
-  **34,000 tons** of concrete
-  **4,200 cbm** of concrete were used for the floor slab with **1 m** thickness
-  **600 concrete wagons** were required only for the floor slab



This striking picture shows the 20 emergency power supply container units on the building's roof at 36 m height.



The "control center" right next to the construction site served the team for meetings.



The DCG team put their heart and soul into this project at any time and achieved this great result.

# CHOOSING DATA CENTER GROUP AS A PARTNER WAS THE RIGHT DECISION

DATA CENTER GROUP'S experts develop the best possible data center solutions for Bank11 amongst others

## BANK11



Jörn Everhard, Managing Director of Bank11, is pleased about the professional cooperation with the DCG experts.

In order to be able to fully implement its own high requirements, Bank11 was looking for a matching partner to realize a suitable data center infrastructure that could be brought to side with the DATA CENTER GROUP and its corresponding know-how.

In the first place, the DATA CENTER GROUP set up a concept according to the requirements of the BSI basic protection catalog and the DIN standards applying to this sector. The concept's frame conditions are based on the ISO 27001 regulations as well as on the data center standard DIN EN 50600. With regard to smooth operation, costs and energy efficiency a future-proof data center solution was developed and implemented.

The matching space for the data center integration was found in an unoccupied area on the building's 3rd floor. In addition to that, the roof area provided sufficient space for the implementation of cooling units. The implementation of these units has been realized via crane without any issues.

■ The credit institution Bank11 für Privatkunden und Handel GmbH based in Neuss, Germany, is specialized in sales and purchase financing for the medium-sized automotive sector. Thus, a reliable data center infrastructure is indispensable for the company.

Since 2015, the company has been developing proper software tools such as the credit assistant "Victor 3.0", focusing on a high level of customer orientation, process optimization as well as on speed and efficiency. Up to now, 2 small server rooms built the data center at the site in Neuss that were to be replaced by a central, highly-available data center. Highest security and availability as well as sustainability are part of important criteria for Bank11.

"The cooperation during the construction of our new data center worked very well from the initial planning to the implementation, all deadlines were met as agreed. We are glad that we chose the DATA CENTER GROUP as our partner for this project", emphasizes Jörn Everhard, Managing Director of Bank11.

The building's electrical power supply represents the transfer point of the existing infrastructure including the company's backup power supply. These provide the data center's redundant power and data connection. The overall availability target was availability level 2. The data center also has a high maintenance tolerance: Maintenance can take place during ongoing operation.

"We are very satisfied with the successfully implemented project", says Florian Hammer, Area Sales Manager West/Central. "From the very beginning we worked together with Bank11 in a very trusting manner. In a very short time, we realized an exactly tailored solution so the customer's needs were fully satisfied."

### Data & Facts

#### Product

- DC-ITRoom QuartzITe 9.3
- IT server room

#### Equipment

- Early fire detection system
- Monitoring
- DC-IT security panel system
- 19" rack system 42 HE
- Cold aisle containment
- Emergency power supply
- Lightning protection and overvoltage concept
- NOVEC 1230 fire extinguishing system with fire alarm system

 DIN 4102  
EN 1363  
EN 13501-2

 F90  
EI90  
Fire resistance class

 66 sqm  
DC-area

 3 MONTHS  
Construction time

„ We are glad, that we have chosen DATA CENTER GROUP as partner. “

Jörn Everhard  
Managing Director Bank11





Photos: © envia TEL



**” With the new data center we are making a contribution to the further digital transformation of companies and society. “**

**Stephan Drescher**  
CEO envia TEL

# SUSTAINABILITY MAKES THE DIFFERENCE



## DATA CENTER GROUP experts implement high-performance IT infrastructure for envia TEL

■ **envia TEL is dedicated to the construction and operation of state-of-the-art telecommunications networks in industrial estates, office complexes and rural areas. The combination of regional service structures and a high level of consulting expertise make the company a business partner for all telecommunications solutions including data, internet and networking.**

The second high-performance data center in Taucha near Leipzig has started operation, providing individually configurable space of 2,000 sqm in a highly-secure environment for 40,000 servers for data processing and storage in accordance with German law.

“The demand for future-proof fibre optic lines combined with sufficient data center capacities is constantly increasing. Additionally, the corona pandemic has given this need for a high-performance IT infrastructure another enormous boost. The new data center is our contribution to the ongoing digitalization of companies and society”, explains Stephan Drescher, managing director envia TEL. “With the DATA CENTER GROUP team, we had a construction partner at eye-level. Right from the start we felt perfectly advised and the result absolutely convinced us.”

### Planning challenge mastered

The new 2-level-building is divided into 4 construction areas, each with a space of 500 sqm. Depending on the demand the data center capacity can be increased up to 2,000 sqm. “Construction works during the corona pandemic were a planning challenge, but proceeded without any major interruptions”, reports Matthias Grond, DCG project manager.

For the new building approximately 5,000 cbm of concrete, more than 400 tons of construction steel and approximately 400 km of power cables were used. All critical supply systems are designed to be multiple ensuring a high reliability level. Thus, the data center is integrated via redundant fibre optic lines into the optic fibre network of envia TEL and the networks of other network operators.

The power supply is secured by two power lines from the sub-station located in the immediate vicinity and additionally by four emergency power generators. At the same time 100 % of the power comes from renewable energy sources.

The new data center Leipzig 2 is also equipped with a sophisticated security concept, air-conditioning, fire protection and 24-hour monitoring via its own control center that is located directly on site. Due to all these characteristics, complying with the requirements of the second-highest security level of the European Standard EN 50600, the data center is certified according to ISO 27001 for IT security and according to ISO 9001 for quality management.

### Waste heat utilization for heating office space

For envia Tel, sustainability plays a special role beside the top priorities, maximum security and availability. Building a future-proof data center was the goal and the task of the planning. Thanks to the implementation of heat pumps to use data center waste heat for heating office spaces for instance, this goal was finally achieved. The service range extends from individual technology cabinets to separate security rooms with extended security measures to cloud connectivity and complete service.

### Data & Facts

#### Equipment

- Redundancies (power supply 7 MW, NEA emergency power supply, air conditioning 1.6 MW)
- Waste heat utilization by means of heat pump for heating the office areas
- Indirect free cooling
- Commissioning in 2 phases

- Fire protection Security technology
- approx. **2000 sqm** DC-area
- only **1,5 YEARS** construction time



Sustainability played a special role in the realization of envia TEL's high-performance data center.



All critical supply systems are designed for multiple use and ensure maximum reliability.



The new data center is equipped with a sophisticated security concept.



# THE FINAL PHASE: NEW DATA CENTER IN DUISBURG-WEDAU

Sustainable high-performance data center builds the foundation for the digital infrastructure in Duisburg's new technology quarter

■ Within a construction period of only twelve months the DCC Duisburg CityCom implemented a new high-performance data center together with DATA CENTER GROUP, setting standards in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability: Around 2,800 sqm on two floors offer space for up to 300 server cabinets. In total, the DVV group is investing around 18.5 million EUR at this site.

The data center is being operated by the DCC Duisburg CityCom, a municipal IT and telecommunications service provider that is also part of DVV (Duisburger Versorgungs- und Verkehrsgesellschaft) which is one of Duisburg's largest employers, contributing decisively to the provision of an efficient infrastructure in the major city.

"Fast data networks and high computing and storage capacities are the lifeblood for future economy and science. We are building the required digital infrastructure and thus preparing the ground for further development in Wedau-North", said Marcus Wittig, chairman of the DVV management.

The technology quarter Wedau-Nord is being built on the approximately 30-hectare area that was once home to a marshalling yard with a repair shop. "The 6 Lakes Wedau urban development project is directly adjacent to the south, and together they form one of the most important development areas in Germany", said Sören Link, head mayor. "The university Duisburg-Essen (UDE) is a strong partner for the technology quarter and will decisively shape its use. The repair shop's straightening halls will be retained to serve as the centerpiece of the new campus."

In the future, the university Duisburg-Essen will also be one of the main tenants of the new high-performance data center which was designed to satisfy the highest availability and security classifications: complex emergency power supply, fire protection and cooling systems ensure the reliable availability of the computing performance. "Our data centers are equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology to meet our customers' special requirements from the public sector as well as from science and research", explains Marcus Vunic, managing director DVV for information technology, telecommunications and digitalization. "We are proud that we met the scheduled construction period of only twelve months despite various weather impairments and supply shortages caused by the corona pandemic." "Thanks to the cooperation with DATA CENTER GROUP and its long-term expertise in data center planning and construction we have once more achieved the best possible solution", adds Marcus Vunic. DCC Duisburg CityCom and DATA CENTER GROUP were already partners in the construction of the data center in Duisburg-Rheinhausen.

The new data center also provides a special sustainability concept: One part of the IT area is being cooled via "hot water". This method enables the feeding through a separating heat exchanger into the network of the energy supplier which feeds the energy into the heating network on the campus via an energy center.

The hub that connects the whole area to the high-speed internet is installed in front of the data center. This so-called POP (point of presence) station serves as the main distributor to the fiber optics network from which all quarter buildings can be connected.

The official data center is scheduled for when the university's new high-performance computer comes online.

► The project continues – stay tuned! We will soon report on the following project and construction phases on our website and the next edition of our DC MAG.

### Data & Facts

#### Equipment

- Uninterruptable power supply (UPS), redundant (n+1), modular expandability
- 400 KW performance for each system
- 2,5 MW performance for each emergency power supply system
- 60,000-liter-capacity earth tank for emergency supply of at least 72 hours
- 24-h-operation control
- entire security technology according to EN 50600 security classification III

- ⚡ Electrical supply over 4 MW in the final stage
- ↕ 2800 sqm in total on 2 floors
- 🕒 12 MONTHS construction period



The new data center with innovative heat recovery technology sets standards in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability.



An extensively greened roof serves to reduce the CO2 amount and the ambient temperature in summer.



The data center is equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology to meet the customers' special requirements.



# SECURELY SUSTAINABLE

Reliable – modular – scalable:  
The DC-ITContainer

” For us energy efficiency starts already with the master engineering and the equipment choice. The latest DC-ITContainer generation guarantees unrestricted mobility, security and modularity. We adjust the container to your individual requirements. “

Björn Wäschenbach  
Project manager RZproducts



■ The demand for industry and service companies for edge solutions, which means decentralized IT infrastructures for serving the core business, is increasing. Our data center solutions in the form of all-in-one-containers – the DC-ITContainer – is the response to the demand of so-called "Distributed Compute Power".

Especially in the age of digitalization and increasing automation the demand for decentralized, secure, highly-available and sustainable data center solutions experiences a boom. Our modular and scalable data center solutions adapt to your infrastructure. As a plug-and-play solution the container can simply be connected to the power supply and it is immediately ready for operation. This allows you to realize your projects flexibly and promptly across all sectors. The DC-ITContainer persuades with an efficient energy concept and the immediate operational readiness after delivery.

The DC-ITContainer is compact and reliable. As an independent data center with redundant cooling system and integrated monitoring system it is the perfect choice for creating edge infrastructures, upon request also in compliance with EN 50600 resp. Tier Uptime.



Our turnkey all-in-one solutions for your IT-security



# WE SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF OUR CUSTOMERS

The sales team of DATA CENTER GROUP has a new structure

DATA CENTER GROUP is optimally positioned to meet the challenges of a constantly changing and growing industry: The Teams in external sales and in the back office were strengthened. Next to the addition on personnel expertise, new strategy centers were also created: There are new branch offices in Frankfurt and Munich, the Berlin branch office was enlarged and strategically relocated to the building of the parent company MVV Enamic.

Jörgen Venot, Head of Marketing and Product Sales, has established a team, who brings crossindustry skills and meets customers at eye level. With the hiring of Michael Czychowski, the last gap has now also closed in the newly established nationwide distribution network of DCG. He has been responsible for sales in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg since June 1st. With the right flair for what is happening on the market, the team of the DATA CENTER GROUP is optimally positioned nationwide and armed for the challenges of tomorrow.

“Understanding the requirements of our customers and their DNA is our top priority. Our team speaks the customer’s language and also brings deep technical know-how for the right solutions and is therefore particularly close to the customer,” says Venot.



**Navina Schüler**  
Area Sales Manager  
Centre-South/Rhine-Main



**Florian Hammer**  
Area Sales Manager  
West/Centre



**Michel Düring**  
Area Sales Manager  
Berlin/East



**Michael Czychowski**  
Area Sales Manager  
Bavaria/Baden-Württemberg



**Martin Jung**  
Sales Engineer  
National



**Christine Krause**  
Sales support &  
Appointments  
West/Centre



**Barbara Hildebrandt**  
Sales support &  
Appointments  
Ruhr/North  
Bavaria/Baden-Württemberg



**Sylvia Kriese**  
Sales support &  
Appointments  
Central-South/Rhine-Main  
Berlin/East



**Jörgen Venot**  
Head of  
Marketing and  
Product Sales



**Maximilian Ramb**  
Team Leader  
Internal Sales  
Project business



**Stefan Heidrich**  
Team Leader  
Internal Sales  
Product business

## Locations of the DCG





**Arturo Arce**  
Senior Consultant &  
Sales Expert  
Latin America

# RZ-PRODUCTS MEETS THE CHALLENGES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MARKET

Data center products in demand in Latin America

■ For over 5 years, RZ-Products has been steadily building its track record in the Latin American market. With the expansion of the partner strategy, additional projects have been successfully completed.



Especially in the field of Edge technology, numerous micro data centers have been sold in recent years and room-in-room systems have also been increasingly in demand.

The German quality – the “German engineering” – is the decisive argument here. The type-tested and ECB-S certified security rooms in accordance with EN 1047-2 also comply with other current European standards (such as EN 50600) and are also regularly subject to neutral and independent external quality controls. This is particularly important for companies located in regions where political turmoil and dangerous environmental influences such as fires, earthquakes and floods are more likely to occur.

## Data security even in remote regions

Latin America is one of the most diverse regions in the world. Export business with Latin American countries is facing several challenges. The very diverse economic and political situations of the different countries make a common market view nearly impossible, and it is therefore especially important to be familiar with the different customs and import conditions. RZ-Products attaches great importance to the successful delivery and execution of the projects. The German company is also a member of the German Chamber of Commerce in some countries in Latin America (AHK), which provides advice on opportunities and risks in the market and acts as networking platform for business relations.

## Exploiting the growth potential of Latin America

Despite the challenges in the market, the signs are pointing to growth. Free trade agreements, the Mercosur agreement, Brazil's economic recovery after the recession and progressive developments in the field of Industry 4.0 are creating major opportunities in international trade with Latin America. This development is particularly evident in the automotive, mobility, heavy industry, healthcare, and telecommunications providers sectors, as well as Governmental institutions and Ministries.

## Networking through cooperation in partnership

In order to be able to respond to this increasing demand in the best possible way, RZ-Products has joined forces with local partners to be close to the market and close to the customer: These include the long-standing partner MerkantTI for the Brazilian market, UPSISTEMAS in Colombia;

CAR Engineering in Mexico; Comtecsa in Chile; TSA in Bolivia; and Arturo Arce, our Senior Consultant & Sales Expert Latin America based in Santiago de Chile, is responsible for the coordination of activities with the German headquarters and the handling of global partnerships in the region. In addition, RZ-Products are perfectly positioned as a secure business partner with additional specialized personnel for export procedures and technical staff for installations.

With the corresponding certifications, the experience gained through the numerous successfully implemented projects and the reliable local partners, DATA CENTER GROUP's product business RZ-Products are well prepared and has a firm grip on the challenges of the growing Latin American market.



## AFRICA BUSINESS GUIDE



# CONTAINERIZED SOLUTIONS FROM WESTERWALD TO AFRICA

■ Interview with Jörgen Venot, Head of Marketing and Product Sales of the DATA CENTER GROUP

The DATA CENTER GROUP from Wallmenroth in Rhineland-Palatinate plans, builds, operates and maintains data centers. Founded in 2005, the company generates 100 million euros in turnover per year with 200 employees, around one tenth of these via the business unit RZproducts (Products Business Unit), which also manages the foreign business. Jörgen Venot is responsible for the worldwide sales of the medium-sized company. In the interview, he explains how the digitalization boom in Africa is creating dynamic demand for data centers and why a good local partner network is crucial.

### Plug-and-play solutions in the container

**Mr. Venot, what does the DATA CENTER GROUP offer its customers?**

**J. Venot:** We see ourselves as allrounders for all steps involved in the planning, construction and operation of a data center. It is primarily about the comprehensive protection of the actual servers against external influences such as heat, fire, explosions, dust, water or theft. We also often sell a data center as a complete package in the form of a container (Plug-and-Play).

We first assemble it in Germany and then ship it. Especially in Africa, this form is often used. In addition, we offer remote control of data centers. This is particularly important if the customer is located in a capital city, for example, but the data center is located elsewhere and the transport infrastructure in the country is poor.

**How do you see the development of the data center market in Africa?**

**J. Venot:** The importance of the topic "critical infrastructures" in Africa is also increasing - the continent is growing strongly and is currently experiencing a boom in digitalization. "Smart Cities" are also a topic there. This makes many new data centers necessary. So there is pent-up demand in Africa for appropriate infrastructures to be able to operate data centers in a fail-safe manner. If anything, Corona pushed the issue even further, even though some of our projects were delayed because you couldn't travel to the target markets.

**Since when and where exactly has the DATA CENTER GROUP been active in Africa?**

**J. Venot:** The first project was an order from the Central Bank of Mozambique six years ago. And in Morocco, we built a data center for the state pension fund. The latest success is a project for Egypt's Faisal Bank. We are also discussing possible projects in Nigeria, Cameroon and Ghana.

**A good partner network is crucial**

**How do you go about opening up African markets?**

**J. Venot:** We have been working in Africa for two to three years with selected partners - system integrators or data center specialists - and are convinced that this is the key factor of our success. While the DATA CENTER GROUP brings the technical expertise to the products, the partner acts as "one face to the customer". In Germany we are the general contractor, in Africa it is the partner. He is also responsible for the acquisition of projects because he understands the business culture in the target market better than we do and has a corresponding network. So we act "glocally". When it comes to public tenders, you are actually already too late when they are published. That's why it's so important to start talking to potential customers via partners beforehand.

**And what happens if the partner drops out?**

**J. Venot:** We do not assume that the partner will drop out. We put a lot of time and commitment into selecting and building up partners, and also work honestly and transparently. We can only be successful together. But there would still be alternatives, because we do not grant exclusivity to the partners.

**What distinguishes projects in Africa from projects in Europe?**

**J. Venot:** The decision-making processes are longer than for projects in Europe. So you have to have a lot of patience to get a new contract. But the markets in Africa and the individual projects are attractive enough that it is worthwhile to keep at it. In our industry, it is also important to have good references in order to stand up to the competition. So far, we have also done well in Africa by preferring to give a longer guarantee than price reductions. However, the climatic conditions are a particular technical challenge for us. But we see ourselves well-positioned with our offer.

*The interview took place in Juli 2021 and was published first on the website [www.africa-business-guide.de](http://www.africa-business-guide.de)*

## Africa Business Guide

...at a glance:

- Contact point for German companies wishing to establish or expand their business in Africa
- Provides basic information on African Markets
- Central access to support and advisory services of the Business Network Africa
- Digital platform of the business network Africa
- Realised by Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI)



**Friedrich Henle**  
Senior Manager Africa/  
Middle East at Germany  
Trade & Invest



**Jörgen Venot**  
Head of Marketing  
and Product Sales  
DATA CENTER GROUP

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# TAILOR-MADE DATA CENTERS, AS INDIVIDUAL AS YOUR REQUIREMENTS

■ Stefan Heidrich and Max Ramb have both been working in supply management at DATA CENTER GROUP for 12 years and have experienced the developments in the industry first hand. In the interview, they report on the trends in the industry and their challenges in day-to-day business.



**Maximilian Ramb**  
Team Leader Internal Sales Project Business



**Stefan Heidrich**  
Team Leader Internal Sales Product Business

**DC MAG: What is the composition of your department and what are the focal points of your work?**

**Stefan H.:** Our team currently consists of six people who are responsible for the preparation of offers, calculation and elaboration. Within the group of companies our department is the central interface between office and field sales. In teamwork with our area sales managers we not only develop the right concept for the customer's requirements, but are also technical contact in the back office and are personally available for the presentation of offers.

New projects and enquiries are handled by international partners and our area sales managers throughout Germany from the individual regions, directly and specifically to the experts for the project business (DATA CENTER GROUP) and product business (RZproducts) in Wallmenroth. In order to systematically maintain an overview and to keep an eye on the timeline, we are supported by regulated processes of our quality management according to ISO 9001 and the interdepartmental ERP system. These individual components guarantee a professional process, from the enquiry to the quotation to implementation and handover.



**Max R.:** In order to ensure the processing flow without information loss as well as high quality and reliable information in the offer phase at the same time, we often draw on the know-how of our project managers and experts for technical building equipment already in the presales phase. The constant exchange of information and the short decision-making channels enable smooth processing of enquiries, which ultimately reflects positively for the customer in the further course of the project.

The increasingly complex requirements with regard to sustainability, resource conservation and energy efficiency do not allow for routine standard processing. But this is precisely our incentive and challenge to develop customized Data Centers for individual requirements and to put together customized solution packages.

**DC MAG: How have the challenges in the data center sector changed in recent years?**

**How do you perceive the development of the industry as a whole? What trends do you see?**

**Max R.:** The requirements for data centers have already undergone an enormous development but this is far from complete. The Corona crisis has confirmed once again:

The constant access and availability to company data, no matter from which location, are becoming increasingly important. The enormous increase in data volumes always requires infrastructural adjustments and corresponding measures.

The main topics of the clients have broadened considerably over the years: For many of them, sustainability of their data centers is very important. To this end, we offer our customers particularly durable, ecological and future-proof solutions. This begins with the selection and procurement of materials, the development of innovative concepts such as waste heat recovery or green roofs, and extends to efficient data center operation and smart monitoring, which regulates energy and controls consumption and reliably monitors all parameters.

**” We solve international requirements with technical competence. “**

**Stefan Heidrich**  
Team Leader Internal Sales  
Product Business



Photo: © SFID GRACHO/shutterstock.com



**Stefan H.:** The issue of harmful environmental pollution is becoming more and more important in the market. Many EU regulations have already been adapted to production, maintenance and servicing generally applicable and regulated by law. Thus, the further development of the data center industry will be more than ever a process of continuous adaptation based on customer and environmental requirements.

Existing focal points, such as efficient energy concepts and alternative cooling options, are being significantly expanded by the change in technology. In customer IT departments, the topics of virtualisation, cloud and new service management technologies will lead to clear action and changes.

**Max R.:** This leads to the question of where the data, according to the individual requirements and depending on availability and cost considerations best accommodated. We at DATA CENTER GROUP provide several solution concepts, suitable for every application, from the small IT server room in the existing building to the large IT data center as a new building on a greenfield site in various design and configuration options.

**Stefan H.:** We are also observing nationally and international demand for micro data centers, IT security safes and IT containers. Industry 4.0, the worldwide digitisation in small and medium-sized businesses and edge computing are ensuring that data is increasingly on-site, away from central IT nodes, directly in stored and processed directly in properties and production halls. With the solutions from DATA CENTER GROUP, our clients get the most secure place in the world directly located in their company.

” Added value for customers through experience and teamwork at eye level. “

Max Ramb  
Team Leader Internal Sales  
Project Business



## SEVEN QUESTIONS TO...

...the team of the department Service Data Centers/ Managed Services of the RZservices

In our column “Seven questions to... the Data Center Services Team” experts respond to questions all around data centers and IT infrastructures thus allowing us to gain an insight into their everyday work.

**What three terms come to mind spontaneously on the subject of “data center”?**

- Availability, safety, efficiency

**What does your typical working day as a team in the department of „Service Data Centers“ of the RZservices look like?**

- It is extremely important for us as a team to meet the specific requirements of each individual client. Communication, organisation and proactive approach present us with new challenges every day. No two days are the same.

**What distinguishes the work within the department?**

- We bring a lot of expertise in the data center business and apply it to our daily tasks. Each team member contributes his or her expert knowledge. This puts us in a position to initiate the appropriate steps. As a team we complement each other.

**Where do you see the future of IT? What technology will prevail in the future?**

- Digitalization is the future. The data center industry must develop concepts so that this process is sustainable. Sound planning, correct dimensioning of the technical building equipment and future-proof data center operating are therefore extremely important.

**What is a particularly good day in your job?**

- When you bring projects to the finish line, plans manifest themselves and the data centers are online. The feedback from a satisfied customer crowns the day.

**What would be a worst-case scenario and how would you deal with it in the team?**

- In ongoing operations, the total data center failure is definitely a catastrophe. When everything stands still, it is important to remain calm and to coordinate the necessary steps for the restart of building services and IT in a targeted manner. In the process we work closely as a team and support the client in his crisis management.

**What is your headline for 2022?**

- We want to play an active role in shaping the future of DATA CENTER GROUP and open up new business areas with “Managed Services” and “DC as a Service” to open up new business fields.



Michael Schöngen  
Head of Department  
Data Center Services



Katja Lützenkirchen  
Commercial Services &  
Coordination



Dominik Spies  
Site Service Manager  
Electrical



Daniel Isack  
Site Service Manager  
HVAC

Site Manager:  
René Wende, Matthias Mittermeier and Obeid Muradi



**BORDERSTEP INSTITUTE**  
for Innovation and Sustainability

Science with Impact

## WE NEED MORE POWERFUL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURES

■ In an interview with the editorial team of DC MAG, Dr. Ralph Hintemann reports on sustainability in the data center industry and current market developments. The senior researcher conducts research at the Borderstep Institute for Innovation and Sustainability. He ventures a look into the future of the data center market.

**DC MAG:** Among other things, you work on energy management in data centers. Could you please briefly describe your various main research topics and your career?

**R. Hintemann:** The topics of digitalization and sustainability have been with me since my student days. As a student assistant, I built test benches for new vehicle concepts and worked on the construction of hybrid cars. I have always been interested in the interplay between digitalization and sustainability.

I studied mechanical engineering and economics at RWTH Aachen University and worked there as a research assistant from 1991 to 2000, focusing on innovation and environmental research.

In 2000, I received my doctorate from the Institute of Economics at RWTH Aachen University. Subsequently, I worked in various technological fields at the German Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media (BITKOM) in Berlin, most recently as Head of IT Infrastructure & Digital Office and Head of Business Excellence, before starting my work as Senior Researcher at Borderstep.



” Our research clearly shows that the data center industry has been addressing the issues of energy efficiency and climate protection for many years. “

**Dr. Ralph Hintemann**  
Senior Researcher, Borderstep Institute  
for Innovation and Sustainability



Here, I focus on energy-efficient data centers and digital infrastructures in transition. As part of an interdisciplinary team of experts, we have been observing the data center industry for many years and are able to draw up trends and forecasts based on our observations. My experience from the automotive industry, my technical know-how and my IT knowledge are of great benefit to me in my research work.

**DC MAG:** What is the status quo in terms of data center energy demand in Germany and how does it look globally? Where do you see the latest trends and developments? Where do you see opportunities and potential in terms of the sustainability of digitalization?

**R. Hintemann:** Let me say it straight away: Developments are very difficult to predict. This is because the movements of the market are very dynamic and this dynamic is constantly increasing. As industry experts, however, we have been familiar with the issues for many years and networked with the experts. We have been observing the processes and trends within

Germany for many years, basing our statements on reliable figures, data and facts on which we can develop our forecasts. The energy consumption of data centers in Germany has increased by 60 percent to 16 billion kWh per year in the past 10 years, and we see that it is constantly rising. At the same time, however, we are also seeing a rapid development in sustainability concepts for saving energy, which are promising and forward-looking. Changes in the Refrigerant Ordinance, laws and standards, and new energy utilization concepts clearly demonstrate this.

Internationally, the overall research situation is somewhat more diffuse: But here, too, we look at trends and developments. However, due to the clearly differing structure of the data center markets in the various regions of the world, forecasts are more difficult.



The global pandemic has made it clear once again: We need digital infrastructures to ensure that our economic infrastructures can function. The past year has proven that the right course has been set here. Of course, there were also many challenges to overcome here, but it has become clear that, among other things, many meetings are also possible digitally and global communication has functioned almost unhindered. At times, the business trip was almost obsolete, and this change, like many others, will have a lasting impact on our world. The pandemic has shown that sustainable digitalization and even more powerful IT infrastructures are necessary.

**DC MAG: How can digitalization and sustainability be efficiently reconciled today and in the future?**

**R. Hintemann:** As our research clearly shows, the data center industry has been dealing with the issues of energy efficiency and climate protection for many years. Numerous regulations and standards accompany this development. Here, one can see a clear change in many areas. Concepts

such as waste heat recovery, refrigerants and new, intelligent energy concepts indicate that the market is in a constant state of transformation. The industry must also react flexibly to the latest developments, such as AI and high-performance computing. Of course, there are still many challenges to be mastered, but digitalization offers enormous opportunities.

The current trend is clearly toward edge data centers. But large, centralized data centers are also increasingly being built. The data centers of the future must become increasingly powerful, but also increasingly sustainable. I am optimistic that this will succeed, because the data center industry has always led the way here compared to many other industries, exploiting its potential and seizing the opportunities of digitalization.

**” Digitalization offers enormous opportunities for the future. “**

**Dr. Ralph Hintemann**  
Senior Researcher, Borderstep Institute  
for Innovation and Sustainability

## KNOWING HOW IT WORKS - SHORT BUSINESS TYPE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OUR TRAINEES

**“Who greets whom first? Why do I need business cards? And what do I wear to a business dinner?” These and similar questions come up again and again during training. For several years now, DATA CENTER GROUP has been organising regular seminars for its trainees, to talk about these issues. The main topic this year was “Business-Knigge”.**



In this context, the trainees were able to exchange ideas with speaker Dagmar Lentzen-Müller. Among other things, the following topics were discussed in the team and deepened in group work:

- Small talk (conducting conversations with the help of a special method: observing addressing, making statements, asking questions)
- Meetings (how to behave in meetings, important tips and tricks for organising a meeting)
- Table manners
- Writing e-mails/letters
- Communication (body language, active listening, questioning techniques...)

“The trainee seminars have been an integral part of our training programme for many years. It is important to us that our trainees network with each other in addition to their regular training and stay in touch. This strengthens the team spirit. And the topics are more topical than ever,” emphasizes Kim Blecker (Head of HR and Legal, DATA CENTER GROUP).



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## WELCOME TO TEAM DCG

We are constantly expanding our expertise and happy to welcome the following new colleagues:

### From March 2021

Fred Sabban Site Manager

### From April 2021

Alexander Ishkhanov Site-Service Manager Refrigeration/ Air-Conditioning technology  
 Marcus Stricker Team Leader Technology PJM and Warranty  
 Björn Jansen Electrical engineering

### From May 2021

Sebastian Gras Draftsman  
 Justin Mauer Product Manager/  
 Project Manager Electrical  
 Benedikt Weib Master Electrical Engineer

### From June 2021

Michael Czychowski Area Sales Manager  
 Katharina Hennig Content Marketing Specialist  
 Luisa Pfeifer Master of Science/  
 Architecture  
 Sonja Philipp Team Leader Marketing

### From July 2021

Nils Schütz Internal Sales  
 Project business  
 Alexander Frasch Technical assistant  
 Markus Nickol Commercial assistant  
 Stephen Landgraf Technical draftsman  
 BIM Manager

### From August 2021

Marvin Endres Trainee Industrial Clerk  
 Christine Krause Internal Sales  
 Elise-Marie Ströhmer Trainee draftswoman  
 Merlin Wilke IT-System Administrator  
 Stanislav Filipov Junior Project Manager TGA  
 Thomas Bradler Consultant

### From September 2021

Andreas Franke Specialist planner  
 Electrical & MSR/GLT  
 technology  
 Maximilian Kaufmann Clerk technical office service

### From October 2021

Stefan Grisse IT-System Administrator  
 Marc Fröse Head of Special Projects &  
 Services

### From November 2021

Chris Birkenheuer Production specialist  
 Florian Groß Technical office assistant  
 Björn Wagner Installer  
 Yannick Nolte Commercial administrator  
 Ceylan Özeydin Service technician  
 Lothar Heinz Görgens Installer

### From December 2021

Thomas Jakob Financial accountant

## ANNIVERSARIES

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### 10-year company anniversary 2021

Mathias Beib  
 Bettina Daamen

#### 15-year company anniversary 2021

Ottmar Buchner  
 Burkhard Becker

The DATA CENTER GROUP team says thank you for the great commitment and wishes continued success!



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WE WISH OUR  
 CUSTOMERS, PARTNERS  
 AND EMPLOYEES A  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS  
 AND ALL THE BEST  
 FOR THE NEW YEAR 2022!

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**DC MAG**

A MAGAZINE OF THE DC-DATACENTER-GROUP GMBH



**WE PROTECT IT!**

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RZservices

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