

Innovative thermal cameras communicate with extinguishing systems to prevent fires in production

MOBOTIX and Hekatron Brandschutz.

March 27, 2019

Langmeil, March 27th 2019 – Things get hot when pots and pans are polished in the production process at Kuhn Rikon, the number one Swiss brand for crockery and kitchen aids. Dust explosions can easily occur if the temperature rises above a certain threshold, which in the worst-case scenario can lead to significant fire damage and production outages. Initiated by ITES GmbH, MOBOTIX and Hekatron Brandschutz teamed up in a joint project to deliver 360° protection against this risk for Kuhn Rikon. MOBOTIX thermal imaging cameras are connected to the fire alarm & extinguisher control center Integral IP at Hekatron Brandschutz. The cameras monitor the production process for critical temperatures and intervene autonomously in the production process. Not only does the system trigger an alarm in the case of possible overheating, it automatically stops the production machine and starts the extinguishing process where necessary.

In June 2015, overheated polishing plates caused a dust explosion at the Kuhn Rikon main facility in Rikon in the Töss Valley of Switzerland, precipitating a devastating fire that destroyed the production system and parts of the factory building. Together with the associated production outage, the total damages amounted to CHF 5.2 million (€4.6 million). The production outage alone cost the company CHF 1.4 million (€1.2 million). "Luckily no-one was hurt, but the incident made us drastically aware that we urgently require reliable protection of our production processes that exceed the scope of normal fire protection," explains Paul Brunschwiler, production technician at Kuhn Rikon AG.

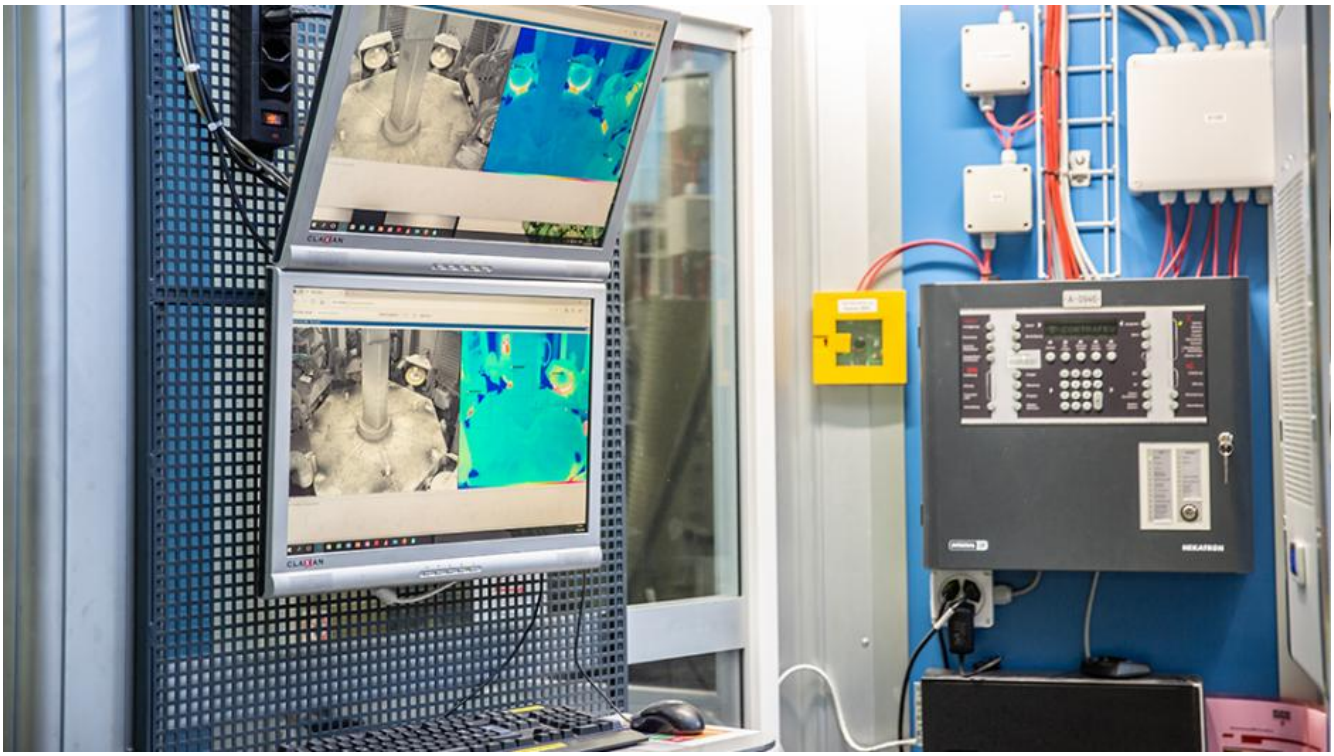


MOBOTIX M16 thermal cameras: Tailored programming and ideal prevention
Project manager Mathias Stauffacher provided the convincing proposal of connecting the thermal cameras M16 Thermal by MOBOTIX with a fire alarm & extinguishing control center at the firm Hekatron Brandschutz: The M16 thermal cameras by MOBOTIX offer outstanding image resolution and enable precise monitoring of all danger zones within the Kuhn Rikon production workflow. In addition, the software package for the IP cameras allows tailored programming to suit the needs of the Swiss company. "We programmed all three escalation levels exactly: A warning for critical temperatures, production stop when the threshold is exceeded, followed by immediate initiation of the extinguishing process after the production shutdown to prevent any spread of the fire," adds Stauffacher.

Kuhn Rikon: Significantly fewer production errors, production process boosted by 5%
"The compatibility with MOBOTIX and Hekatron Brandschutz, as well as the user-friendly and low-maintenance system, convinced us 100 percent. Continuous, precise temperature measurement also allowed us to optimize our production process to ensure that we always operate at the ideal temperature and largely prevent any production errors. Overall, we managed to optimize our production process by around 5 percent and in doing so make the general working atmosphere more pleasant for our employees," reports Paul Brunschwiler.

"ITES GmbH is an expert for innovative fire protection and safety technology: "Our competency and experience enable us to develop and implement tailored, state-of-the-art solutions for our customers. Our holistic approach offers our customers crucial added functionality," says Alexander Iglhaut, ITES Director of Safety Technology.

"MOBOTIX and Hekatron Brandschutz have very similar DNA. Both our companies develop their technology and also manufacture their products in Germany. The clear focus on premium quality hardware, software and services is confirmed in the successful results of projects like this one," emphasizes Christian Heller, Sales Director DACH at MOBOTIX AG. "The Kuhn Rikon project highlights the importance of a smart hard and software solution for fire protection and production optimization. Our intelligent safety systems make major contributions in other sectors as well, among them waste management or the petroleum and gas industries," says Heller.



"The incident at Kuhn Rikon plainly shows that fire protection for technical systems is extremely important as a 'life-insurance policy' for the company. Here, protecting the employees and the company's output go hand in hand," stresses Daniel Triebswetter, specialist for extinguishing system control at Hekatron Brandschutz. "The solution for Kuhn Rikon catches the eye with its simple connection of the MOBOTIX thermal image camera to the fire alarm & extinguishing control center Integral IP, as well as the smart fire management system – from production stoppage to triggering the extinguishing system."

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About MOBOTIX AG

MOBOTIX is a leading premium-quality manufacturer of intelligent IP video systems, setting standards in innovative camera technologies and decentralized security solutions with the highest cybersecurity. MOBOTIX was founded in 1999 and is headquartered in Langmeil, Germany. Made in Germany, the company has offices in New York, Dubai, Sydney, Paris and Madrid. Customers worldwide rely on the longevity and reliability of MOBOTIX hardware and software. The flexibility of the solutions, the integrated intelligence and the highest level of data security are appreciated in many industries. MOBOTIX products and solutions help customers in industrial manufacturing, retail, logistics and healthcare, among others. With strong and international technology partnerships, the company is working on redefining the future.

About Hekatron Brandschutz

Ensuring the best possible protection of people and assets in emergency situations is and remains the driving force behind Hekatron Brandschutz in the area of fire safety for technical systems in Germany.

Headquartered in Sulzburg in south Baden, the company has played a key role in shaping the development of fire protection equipment with its innovative products and services for over 55 years, while also accepting social responsibility and showing environmental commitment.

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