

Press Release

Safety boost for Berlin's "traffic light man"

London, June 2018 - The Ampelmännchen ("little traffic light man") from the former GDR is a cult figure around the globe. For tourists, the shops of AMPELMANN GmbH in Berlin are a big draw. Branches are spread over the entire city, and to reduce the burden of employee and staff key assignment, the company sought to optimize access rights management. At the same time, branch security needed to be state-of-the-art. The CLIQ® access control solution from ASSA ABLOY met all these requirements with flying colours.

Founder and owner Markus Heckhausen sought a locking solution for eight AMPELMANN GmbH branches and a 2,200 m² logistics centre, to meet the needs of a decentralized branch organization. This creative company, which manufactures and sells a wide variety of products under the AMPELMANN brand with the Ampelmännchen, did not want a complex system suited only to large companies with thousands of employees. It should be practicable and fast for a company with around 150 employees, yet still able to secure branches reliably.

Easy administration, maximum security

Small and medium-sized retailers face the same access control challenges as their large competitors. Employees need access to the store, warehouse and offices — but not every employee should have the same authority. Branches must be accessible to customers during opening hours, yet sufficiently secured after closing time against unauthorized access. Key management is often an elaborate, time-consuming process, even more so when keys are lost or stolen. In such cases, all locking systems must be replaced, which requires more effort and significant costs.

AMPELMANN GmbH in Berlin also faced these issues. Its eight branches are located in the best shopping areas in Berlin, each staffed by several employees. External service providers such as cleaners also need access to the building. A large staff roster and significant distance between branches create a major key management workload.

eCLIQ ensures branch security

Together with the Berlin locksmith Hinz, AMPELMANN owner Markus Heckhausen found a solution in the flexible, decentralized and reliable electronic locking system from ASSA ABLOY.

Uli Hahn, Managing Director of Hinz, has been providing security in and around Berlin for more than 50 years. He says: "The eCLIQ locking system is very powerful and safe compared to conventional systems. It is easy to handle and to assemble. Above all, it enables quick and easy administration of access authorizations, making it the perfect choice for medium-sized companies such as AMPELMANN."

eCLIQ comes as a "plug and play" solution and is ready to use immediately after installation. The system works without cabling, so the extremely compact eCLIQ cylinder can be used in a wide variety of doors at any location. Power is supplied by batteries in each

programmable key, which can be changed easily and without tools. A built-in chip makes every electronic key unique. Keys can be programmed directly on the cylinder, remotely or with easy-to-use eCLIQ Manager software.

In addition to compact design, the system is characterized by robust, durable and safe components. An integrated lubricant reservoir ensures the cylinders remain maintenance-free for up to 200,000 cycles. A high-quality processor protects the locking system against manipulation and intelligent attacks. Keys are also highly resistant and waterproof (IP67). eCLIQ cylinders and keys are VdS-certified (BZ +) and comply with the DIN EN 15684 standard for electronic locking systems. A wide range of different cylinder types makes the system suitable for many applications — from the company's entrance gate to securing alarm systems, elevators, doors and cupboards.

Convincing solution

"Decisive in our choice of eCLIQ was that we could control access authorizations easily and flexibly at any time," explains Markus Heckhausen. "If a key is lost, we can easily deactivate it and disable it."

eCLIQ even makes time- and location-limited authorizations easy — for example, to allow cleaners to enter only at certain times. The allocation of access authorizations can now be coordinated conveniently by individual branch managers, within a system that ensures maximum security for all AMPELMANN GmbH shops.

For more information, please visit <https://campaigns.assaabloyopeningsolutions.eu/cliq>.

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About CLIQ®: CLIQ® is a security locking system with high-end microelectronics, programmable keys and cylinders. The system offers a variety of combinations of mechanical and electronic systems to match different security and flexible access needs. Available on the global market place, it provides flexible access and key management solutions for all kinds of locking applications.

About AMPELMANN: The Ampelmännchen was designed in the early 1960s by Karl Peglau, traffic psychologist and designer. Since then, the "real citizens of Berlin Jören", as the inventor described his symbols, serve the traffic safety of pedestrians. See also www.ampelmann.de.

Photo caption: eCLIQ is the ideal flexible solution for branches of Ampelmann GmbH

Photo: ASSA ABLOY

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About ASSA ABLOY

ASSA ABLOY is the global leader in door opening solutions, dedicated to satisfying end-user needs for security, safety and convenience. The Group has 47,500 employees and annual sales of EUR 7.9 billion.