

Press release

Kapsch BusinessCom and office furniture manufacturer Sedus develop the “smart office”.

se:connects is an innovative solution from Sedus, the specialist in office furniture and workplace concepts, which was developed using the expertise and technology of Kapsch BusinessCom. The entire end-to-end solution for se:connects is provided by the Austrian digitalization expert.

Vienna, October 4, 2018 – Building technology is becoming increasingly sophisticated and the best smart buildings demonstrate impressively what is technically possible today. From lighting, heating, and ventilation to signage, security and access control systems, as well as networked information and communications technology – almost everything is now digitally recorded, controlled, and analyzed. Of course facility managers today are also intensely interested in optimizing the use of their available space.

Instead of fixed workplaces and rigid office structures, companies are increasingly making use of smart working concepts. Being able to choose where we work – depending on the task and our individual preferences – also fundamentally changes the way we work, and contributes not only to greater cost effectiveness but also to increased creativity and job satisfaction.

This collaboration between Kapsch and Sedus now combines smart working and the smart office. The cloud-based platform se:connects makes it easy for employees to find the right workspace for their day in the office. se:connects also saves companies money by optimizing the use of office space. At its heart is a mobile app that uses intelligent IoT sensor technology as an innovative solution for the use and management of workspaces in smart working environments. In practical terms, this means that employees use an app to quickly choose the best workspace for their needs with search parameters such as “near other team members,” “sunny/shady,” “quiet or communicative.” From the company’s perspective, it shows clearly how their office space is being used, so that they can optimize their workspace design.

Desks and office chairs are equipped with sensors to record the presence of users, and facility managers receive anonymized but highly valuable data that they can use to improve the design and utilization of office space.

Jochen Borenich, member of the Management Board of Kapsch BusinessCom AG: “We are delighted to be collaborating with Sedus on the smart office. Our complete end-to-end concept for digitalization was the persuasive factor for them. Everything from sensors on chairs and tables to gateway modules for the Internet of Things, and the cloud platform with data analysis tools, including the dashboard interface and mobile application – it is all supplied by Kapsch. This intelligent office solution will be presented for the first time at ORGATEC, the international trade fair for innovation and trends in the new world of work, which runs from October 23 to 27, 2018 in Cologne.”

Holger Jahnke, spokesman for the executive board at Sedus Stoll AG: “Our se:connects mobile app is a key component of modern building technology, and I am convinced that in the near future there will just be ‘one app for everything.’ Kapsch’s expertise makes them the ideal innovative partner for us, as they provide independent solutions that are not tied to a particular producer or system. In particular large international clients with extremely complex IT structures want IoT solutions that are straightforward and that function perfectly. The IoT market will continue to develop rapidly and make us all more tightly networked. While for some people this sounds rather like ‘Big Brother,’ for the majority it will bring many advantages and benefits. As I see it, intelligent networking will become a core function for many products and services, such as costing models based on usage, for example.”

“When Sedus was developing the first office chairs more than 125 years ago, Kapsch was already working on transmission technology in the form of Morse code devices. Now, in the digital era, se:connects combines the expertise of these two long-established companies, rich in the traditions of the German-speaking world, in the smart networked office,” says Jochen Borenich.

Sedus Stoll AG is based in Dogern (in Waldshut, in southern Germany) and is one of the leading suppliers of integrated office furnishings and workplace concepts. Sedus develops, manufactures, and sells high-quality furniture, “Made in Germany.” Throughout the company’s 145-year history as an office furniture expert and technology pioneer, Sedus has continually set new benchmarks – particularly in the fields of ergonomics, design, and sustainability. This has resulted in standards that have gained worldwide recognition. In fiscal year 2017, the Sedus Stoll group achieved revenue of over EUR 191 million; the group employs around 900 people. www.sedus.com

Kapsch BusinessCom, a Kapsch Group company, supports companies in taking their business performance to the next level and developing new business models. As a leading partner in digitalization, the company operates as a consultant, system supplier, and service provider. Kapsch BusinessCom is the ideal partner for keeping abreast of rapidly evolving digital technologies thanks to its widespread expertise in handling large quantities of data and matters of security, in addition to the valuable experience gained from successful implementation of a variety of use cases across numerous industries. The company’s comprehensive portfolio in Austria, Romania and the DACH region includes technology solutions for intelligent and – most importantly – secure ICT infrastructure along with smart building technology, media and security technology, and outsourcing services. Kapsch pursues a strategy of manufacturer independence, cooperates with leading global providers such as HPE, Cisco, and Microsoft, and participates in a wide network of research partners and industry-specific solution providers ranging from startups to major corporations.

Kapsch BusinessCom services more than 17,000 customers both locally and globally, including Allianz, Erste Bank, ÖBB, OMV, ORF, and Vodafone. In the fiscal year 2017/18, Kapsch BusinessCom generated revenue of approximately EUR 318 million with its 1,200 employees.

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