



EquaScan A+S GmbH field report



A+S GmbH reads a complex residential site in the Hamburg district of Rahlstedt with the Itron EquaScan AMR system.

THE PROJECT

The long-standing business relationship between A+S GmbH and Itron was the basis for implementing a particularly challenging project. The Polarweg / Alaskaweg project in Hamburg has been a challenge for all involved due to its size, building arrangement and features.

The project consists of various non-contiguous residential units of different sizes and floors. The total of 729 devices / 153 flats (marked red in the picture) are recorded via 1 coordinator and 16 routers. Reading and configuration is possible from a central point for all complexes (see blue dot in the picture). The properties were taken over by a competitor who had to read manually due to poor radio performance.



About A+S GmbH

Since 1976, A+S GmbH has been a reliable partner for property management companies, housing associations, homeowners and heating contractors in the recording and billing of heating costs and water consumption, as well as in the preparation of complete utility bill accounts. The company's economic situation and working atmosphere are excellent, which is reflected, among other things, in the extremely low fluctuation of the approximately 250 employees. Solid financial management, very high quality and an exceptionally good information system are the cornerstones of the company's success. The error rate in billing is less than 1%. Comparative figures from competitors are 6 to 12%. The customer data are available online to the 25 branches and their approximately 50 mobile field staff. The company is 100% family-owned.



THE CHALLENGE

The project planning and implementation was the biggest problem, as the property consists of non-contiguous sub-complexes of different sizes, some of which have up to 10 floors. Another challenge was finding a good position for the coordinator / routers, as reception was impaired by the fire protection covering in the elevators. It was also important that the reading should only take place from one central location.

„We chose Itron as our partner to implement this project because, on the one hand, there were considerable problems with the devices from the other suppliers, only one of which was able to offer a stationary system with a fixed network connection. On the other hand, the enormous range and bidirectionality of the radio traffic was and is an advantage of the EquaScan system, as well as the fact that A+S was involved in co-developing the system and was thus able to influence the specifics and functions.“

Business graduate Ralf Schlotbohm,
Managing Director at A+S Gesellschaft für
Heizkostenmessung und Abrechnung mbH

Advantages for building management and the apartment users

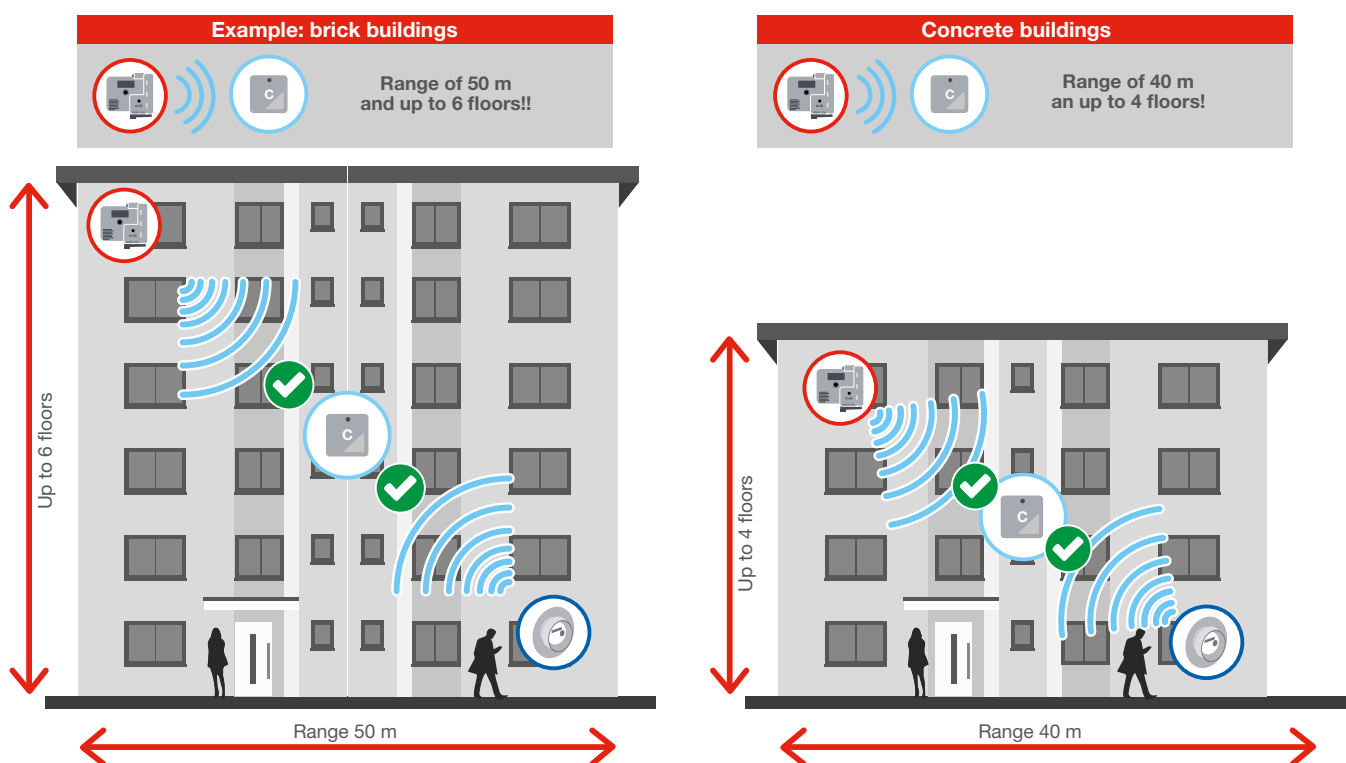
One of the biggest advantages is the bidirectionality of the data transport and the associated extensive data packets which makes it possible to react promptly to any disruptions. When equipping a property, it is always ensured that all devices function properly and that you can intervene directly on site if necessary. The monthly or twice monthly reading for the intra-yearly consumption information is given. Invoicing dates can be reprogrammed remotely. The tenants no longer have the problem of having to be present in person at the time of the meter reading. Consumption values can be determined exactly, which is particularly important when tenants move in or out. In the case of vacancies, it is important for owners to know whether anything was consumed and if so, where.

Conclusion

Right from day one, A+S was able to meet the legal requirements for intra-yearly consumption information, while the competitors were only able to follow suit with delay and struggled with considerable problems. Here, too, it paid off that A+S was / is actively involved in the development of the EquaScan system.

EFFICIENT

With the introduction of the new generation of the EquaScan wireless system Gen2, a further optimization of the already exceptionally large range could be achieved for the V2 components. This means a further significant increase in the cost-effectiveness of the stationary EquaScan wireless system, as fewer routers may be needed than in comparable installations.



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