

Works Management

www.worksmanagement.co.uk

Protection rack for shopfloor security

System protection is now available for the production environment, which sits behind traditional firewalls. A new device from Innominate offers virus protection, and the hardware is designed specifically for shopfloor environments.

Innominate is entering the UK market, although the system is well established in Central Europe. Olaf Siemens, CEO, says: "While the merger of office and production networks present great potential for increasing efficiency, the security risks involved in using industrial Ethernet networks are not yet being taken seriously by many companies. Our configurable mGuard industrial firewall individually protects automation networks and industrial computers against unauthorised access and all

types of threats, regardless of the operating system."

The threat is very real, according to the company's Andreas Beierer. "In the office, the firewall is ok, but in the factory, with a machine on IP and Ethernet, more security is needed." Machinery and automation on the shopfloor is seen to be at risk from malicious code, of which Beierer suggests "70-80% comes from inside the network, or from service technicians using notebooks, and this then gets in behind the firewall." One customer turned to Innominate after a robot on its production



line in South Africa stopped working: the problem was traced to malicious code that came over the internet after the unit was contacted remotely from Germany.

Beierer adds: "In production, know-how is limited [on IT security issues] and on these specific requirements, the system helps production managers as it is just 'plug and play' – in fact with auto learning, the system runs constantly, listens to the code, and configures itself."

The modular approach delivers high levels of individual protection for multiple systems and servers. The pack costs £5,450, or the mGuard industrial is available from £470 per blade.