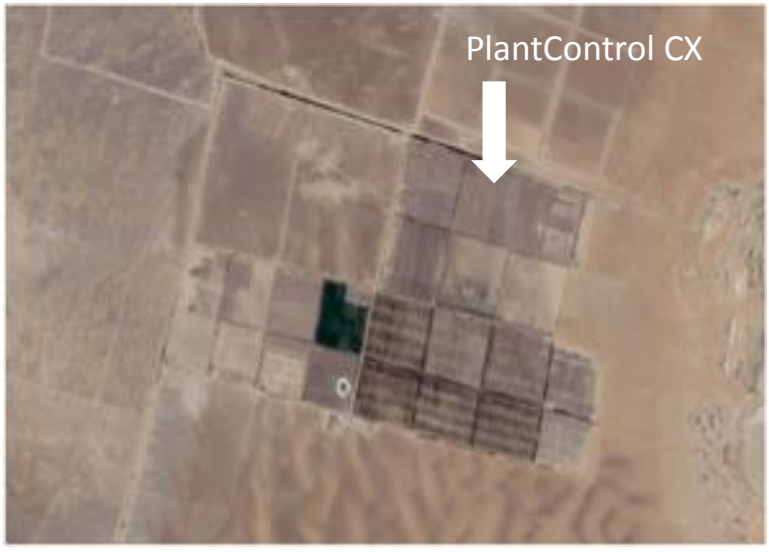
In any case - PlantCare

NL² 2015

This newsletter wants to illustrate that our products are used all over the world and under extreme conditions. More and more we get inquiries from far away countries or for tasks that can only be tackled with the aid of our technology. Remains to say that PlantCare has never advertised its products – it is only by spreading the word that the world learns about our revolutionary irrigation-technology. The key features of our appliances are maximum water savings capacity combined with substantial yield increase, optimal functionality and operator convenience.

The desert lives!

Well yes, at least where it is irrigated. Needless to say that in dry places, water is an especially valuable asset. Therefore, our water-saving technology is used to regulate irrigation systems in the Egyptian desert. Coming along with the circumstances are some specific challenges.



The company Hydrip in Vienna, Austria, has been networking with organic farmers in Egypt and has recently installed a PlantControl CX in the middle of the desert, namely on the Sekem farm, five hours drive out of Kairo. The appliance is used to regulate the irrigation of date palms, jojoba bushes and vegetable in a greenhouse.

A pump, powered by solar energy, brings up the ground water from great depths. This water needs to be used sparingly. Because of the solar radiation, the heat in the greenhouse mounts to high temperatures. Nonetheless the technology must function correctly and reliably. All components need to be placed within dust-proof wrapping. Moreover, the soil moisture sensors out in the open field are exposed to abrasive sandstorms. Water pipes must be buried, as the water would otherwise begin to boil.

Despite the remoteness of the location there is good mobile reception, which fortunately allows remote enquiry and maintenance.

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From dry to humid

Do you love horse racing and do you happen to be a member of the Sha Tin Jockey Club in Hong Kong?

If so, you may enjoy the green wall of the newly erected clubhouse. The lush front is irrigated by means of our PlantControl CX.

Hong Kong's climate is subtropical and accordingly humid. The central unit as well as the radio sensors are nevertheless compelled to work aboveboard.

Moreover, the plants grow in an artificial substrate composed of felt. For optimal irrigation, the moisture within this substrate must be detected. Our special sensor (PE) masters this task without any difficulty.

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Preserve the tree!

The Freiheitsplatz in Hanau, Germany, used to be a park with lots of plane trees, until the building of a shopping mall brought the end for the trees. One plane tree, though, was literally seized by the local residents and guarded day and night, till it was spared by the construction company.

As the excavation was joined directly to the rooting zone of the tree, the soil within this sector had to be monitored in respect to moisture and irrigated when it became too dry.

The company Matthias Zorn in Wilhelmsdorf, 60km north of Hanau, was responsible for securing the tree's survival. A difficult task, considering that the protégé was 60km away.

Not so difficult a task, if you have a PlantControl CX at hand! Three sensors were inserted into the soil around the rooting zone of the tree, positioned in different depths, and the data was transferred via radio to the CX. The CX then sent emails containing the soil moisture data to the Zorn office. Thus, a remote monitoring was possible without any hassle. In case a sensor had failed due to vandalism or other, the CX would have sent an immediate SMS alert to the company.

How long to go?

This question is one that the tomato farmers in California, US, are confronted with on a daily basis. How long will the water last in order to spray the endlessly vast tomato fields?

PlantCare was invited by Morning Star, the biggest tomato producer in California, to install a trial station on one of their ample fields. The aim of this experiment is to determine how much water may be saved by using our Dynamic-Runtime-Adjustment (DRA) technology compared to conventional systems. Even a few percent would mean a major success when talking about a production output of 630t per hour.

Every day, the monitoring data of the trial station is transmitted to us via email. Thus, we may discuss the results with the people in charge on-site.

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Roses, Roses, Roses in My Garden ....

Even roses bloom more abundantly and over longer periods of time when they are watered exactly according to their needs. PlantCare has recently received the order to deliver an intelligent irrigation control to the Rosarium in the Donaupark in Vienna, Austria. Our partner company Hydrip has convinced the responsible Viennese authorities of the benefits the PlantCare technology has to offer.

Installations in public spaces need to be hidden or placed in a way that protects them from vandalism. This need is met in that the sensor electronics are attached high up on lampposts, while the PlantControl CX is placed in a secret duct. This is only possible, because the length of the cable does not influence the signal between the actual sensor and the electronic device.

Due to the telemetric readout of the data, the irrigation process may be monitored as well as optimized without an expert needing to be on-site. With this, Hydrip is in the position to offer a new service to municipalities.

Last but not least we would like to inform you that our technology is being used by very renowned universities and centers of agricultural research, such as the Max Planck Institute for molecular plant physiology in Potsdam (Germany) or the Julius Kühn Institut in Sanitz (Germany). The Syngenta research center in Stein (Switzerland), has been using PlantCare systems for several years. Recently, we were given the chance to install our irrigation systems in at the ETH Zürich (Switzerland) and in Germany at the technical university in Munich, the research center Weihenstephan and the Agricultural Centre of the State Hessen in Geisenheim, Germany. Moreover, systems have been delivered and put into operation in two research centers in Belgium and orders have been placed by a BASF research center, the university in Trier (Germany) and by the Humboldt University in Berlin (Germany).

P.S.: Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested.

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