PRISMA

The WILD Group magazine

SMALLEST DETAILS FROM A GREAT HEIGHT

WILD PHOTONIC

Dragon 4.1: new standards in hybrid mapping 3

High-tech meets efficiency: WILD benefits from its site mix 4

WILD makes tailord suspension arms for operating rooms 7

PRISMA | ISSUE 1 • 2025

SMART STRATEGIES FOR TURBULENT TIMES.

Arthur Primus
Managing Director
COO WILD Holding

The European Economic Area is under mounting pressure. Geopolitical tensions, an increasingly complex regulatory environment and rising costs are severely afflicting companies like the WILD Group. The EU has yet to come up with effective strategies to counter these problems. As industry players, we are all the more compelled to act ourselves. We must adapt to dynamically changing framework conditions and work at full strength toward intelligent solutions.

In the current issue, we will illustrate the steps that WILD is taking to guarantee that. How do we remain competitive and a strong, reliable partner in contract manufacturing & development? One approach is a smart mix of production sites. WILD Technologies in Slovakia, for instance, has become a full-fledged assembly site with attractive cost structures within the WILD Group. To continue to guarantee the highest possible security for our customers in the future, we are actively working on meeting NIS-2 requirements early. We are particularly proud that, even in challenging times, we are setting new standards with innovations like the UltraCam Dragon 4.1 or our state-of-the-art suspension arms for operating rooms.

Stay up to date.

Arthur Primus

3 High-flying mapping.

4-5 Solid sites. Smart mix.

6 Ready for NIS-2.

7 A helping hand in the operating room.

8 Smart data glasses.

HIGH-FLYING MAPPING.

Explore, analyse and understand complex environments in unprecedented precision: UltraCam Dragon 4.1 is setting new standards in hybrid aerial mapping – and it's made by WILD.

Be it for urban modelling, corridor mapping or the creation of digital twins – the demand for precise geospatial data is huge. As they become increasingly essential for informed decisions, they need to be as precise and up-to-date as possible. This is where UltraCam Dragon 4.1 comes in. It is Vexcel's first aerial mapping system that combines hybrid oblique imaging with a cutting-edge LiDAR scanner in a single device.

AN ALL-IN-ONE POWERHOUSE

The UltraCam Dragon 4.1 produces high-resolution nadir and oblique aerial imagery enriched with precise LiDAR-based elevation information to create digital twins. They are generated by a powerful 2.4 MHz RIEGL OEM LiDAR scanner, which can collect up to 2 million measurements per second. Especially in tropical areas, the LiDAR's multiple target capability allows the collection of 3D ground points under thick vegetation. In cities with high buildings, its unique scanning geometry, including a true nadir scan line, ensures a comprehensive 3D data collection even in narrow building canyons.

In addition, four oblique cameras (RGB) positioned at 45° in all cardinal points deliver sharp and crisp images. This combination renders the UltraCam Dragon extremely versatile. Moreover, its compact design allows for flexible integration in various aircraft platforms and easy maintenance.

PARTNERS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

In addition to the development work done by Vexcel, the system's perfection is also attributable to WILD's enormous production expertise. The company has been a contract manufacturer of high-tech cameras for over 20 years and currently produces five models.

"For us, WILD always stood out with state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and diverse surface coatings. In addition to their remarkable adherence to delivery deadlines, we especially appreciate their expertise in assembling complex mechanical, optical and electronic components, which significantly enhances the quality of our products", stresses Vexcel's Director of Operations Andreas Drumbl.

Assembling the Dragon 4.1 is a complex process. "The system combines a camera and a laser scanner in a single device, without taking up extra space. This requires a very compact and highly precise design", explains Stefan Werkl, Head of Business Unit Optical Technologies at WILD. "We assemble sensitive core components like camera modules and ensure precise adjustment of the sensors to the lenses. The final tests, too, are carried out in-house using specifically adapted test arrangements."

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SOLID SITES. SMART MIX.

High-tech expertise in development and manufacturing meets competitive cost structures. With sites in Austria and Slovakia, WILD is able to combine these strengths.

High wage costs, rising energy prices and dynamic developments in the raw material sector pose enormous challenges for contract manufacturers in Europe. Companies must act more efficiently than ever before – yet without compromising on quality and innovation. In this volatile environment, the WILD Group enjoys a decisive advantage: a strategic mix of modern development and production sites in Austria and Slovakia means maximum flexibility for the benefit of its customers.

> **The WILD Group's strength lies in its ideal use of synergies between the current four sites.**
> *Arthur Primus, COO WILD Holding*

"Depending on the requirements and the complexity of the products, we choose the most suitable site for the respective project", stresses WILD COO Arthur Primus. WILD Technologies in Trnava plays a pivotal role in this. State-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, a team with exceptional expertise and commitment and competitive cost structures create an ideal production environment for a large number of devices and assemblies.

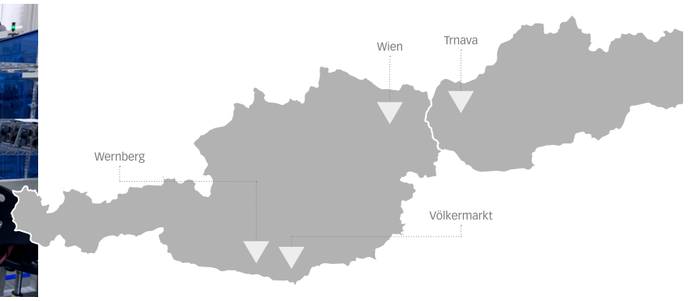
ADDED-VALUE ASSEMBLY SITE

The Trnava factory has undergone impressive developments in the last 5 years. "We have become a full-scale assembly site within the WILD Group. Though complex optics or development projects are reserved for the Austrian sites, we stand out with standardised and scalable processes. We therefore focus on assemblies and devices suitable for serial production that can be easily described in clear working instructions", explains Tobias Knoop, Managing Director at WILD Technologies.

A team of 80 staff members currently produces components and systems of varying manufacturing depths on an area of 4,800 square metres. The majority of these products are delivered directly to customers from the WILD Group's target segments. New products like binoculars with laser rangefinders, stands for operating theatres or analysers illustrate the diversity and the potential of the manufacturing capacities at Trnava. "This year, we are very pleased to add several new customers from different sectors who have put their faith in our competence", adds Knoop. Some 1,000 square metres of space are still unused, however the plans for further growth have been clearly defined: the number of staff is to rise to around 100 by the end of 2025.

MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE

In the previous years, WILD Technologies has invested heavily in infrastructure. An air-conditioning system in the production hall, a gantry crane for handling large assemblies and energy-efficient LED lighting systems with movement sensors across the entire site are just a few examples of the company's commitment to a sustainable and efficient production.



DEDICATED INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING TEAM

Another focus area is the development of technical skills, especially those in industrial engineering. "This translates into a dedicated team to support assembly, thus optimising the efficiency of the manufacturing processes. We thus ensure an efficient, precise, and reliable manufacturing – an important prerequisite for the demanding markets to which WILD caters", Knoop explains. The industrial engineering team is assigned a wide range of tasks: from validating devices, conducting FMEA analyses and setting up complex test and assembly stands, to the quest for process and product optimisation, e.g. through Poka Yoke projects. The team is involved in both the implementation of contract developments by the WILD Group and production relocation projects. "Our objective is clear: we want to wow customers as early as possible. They receive our full support to achieve their quality, deadline and cost targets, thus reaching serial manufacturing for their products at a quicker pace", Knoop emphasises.

In the area of training and upskilling, the company implements internal programmes to improve the competences and skills of its team members in electrical engineering. But there are also training courses organised across groups, in which the site participates. "In general, we are in the fortunate position of finding qualified personnel easily" says Knoop, describing the situation in Slovakia with regard to skilled workers.

As Wild Technologies prepares itself for further growth, one aspect remains unchanged: corporate culture. Openness, transparency and a common commitment to finding solutions for the customer are at the centre of everyday work. This is where the factory comes full circle to the Austrian sites.

MAKING IDEAL USE OF SYNERGIES

"The WILD Group's strength lies in its ideal use of synergies between the current four sites", Arthur Primus stresses. On the supply-chain side, the WILD Group's central strategic procurement really pays off. All sites benefit from the long-standing expertise of the development, sales and manufacturing teams, since they can tap into an in-depth common pool of knowledge and resources.

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READY FOR NIS-2.

WILD is actively working on early compliance with the requirements of the EU directive. All measures aim at securing the highest possible security for customers.

Increasing digitisation means numerous new opportunities for cybercriminals to strike. To counter this threat, the EU has adopted the NIS-2 Directive. This heralds a new era in cybersecurity and demands a comprehensive boost to digital resilience across the entire supply and value chain.

As a responsible partner, WILD proactively addresses this challenge, and has been intensely developing its cybersecurity measures for the last one and a half years. For COO Arthur Primus, this is a process that will cost time and money but will also open new opportunities. "As an innovative technology partner, we not only strive to meet legal requirements, but we also want to offer maximum security to our customers. This is why we are also taking advantage of the NIS-2 to further optimise our processes. Simpler processes are more secure and by reducing system complexity, we help improve our security standards and system errors and reduce our data silos to a minimum."

PREVENTION IS KEY

To comply with the provisions of NIS-2 WILD and PHOTONIC are therefore implementing a comprehensive range of measures. "Thanks to systematic risk management, we can detect threats early and minimise these accordingly," explains Jürgen Spitzer, head of the WILD Group's IT department. Many vulnerabilities can be removed with simple measures like standardised documentation processes, network segmentation, real-time monitoring and regular security updates. By introducing a complete asset management that meets the requirements of FDA standards and ISO 13485, the company ensures sustainable and secure administration of all data and systems. This also reduces the hassle for customers and establishes a basis for secure collaboration. The long-term objective is to achieve ISO 27001 certification.

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Prevention, however, goes far beyond mere technical measures. Cybersecurity affects everyone in the company. That is why staff members are regularly trained and made aware of potential risks on the net. As a result, cybersecurity is gradually becoming an integral part of corporate culture. In addition, WILD forms part of a cross-industry exchange and just recently hosted an NIS-2 network event. Arthur Primus is convinced that "this dialogue with experts and stakeholders is essential for effectively developing security solutions together and sharing best practices".

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A HELPING HAND IN THE OPERATING ROOM.

High-tech support arms for microscopes, endoscopes and applications are indispensable tools in modern ORs. Development and manufacturing partner WILD steps in when "off the shelf" solutions aren't enough.

In daily medical routine, where every second, millimetre and slightest movement often counts, surgeons must be confident that their instruments and devices will remain exactly where they were positioned – without the need for readjustments, without vibrations and without affecting their freedom of movement. A secure hold is not just a question of efficiency but it also has an impact on patient safety.

Especially in modern operating rooms, standard solutions often do not suffice to guarantee the necessary stability of sensitive, high-end optical systems. This is why numerous companies in the industry rely on the expertise of the WILD Group, which has been developing and manufacturing support arms for more than 20 years. These are far more than just positioning aids: they behave like robots, ensuring top precision, stability and reliability.

PRECISION IN EVERY DETAIL

WILD's suspension arms stand out because of their customised design, precisely catering to the respective loads and movement requirements. All components – from joints and adjustment mechanisms to electronic and mechanical interfaces – are tuned precisely to the device's requirements and area of application. "Our high-tech swivel arms are subject to continuous optimisation processes", stresses Development Project Manager Markus Aichwalder. At the end of the day, the greatest challenge lies mainly in establishing a perfect balance between stability and flexibility. "Therefore, we optimally balance the loads with precisely adjusted lever and spring mechanisms." At the same time, WILD experts work on continuously improving the product's ergonomics: advancements in manufacturing precision have led to further reduction of friction within the systems. This allows for these devices to be operated with minimum force. Adjustable heights, flexible arms and intuitive control elements further simplify their use in operating theatre environments. Thanks to new materials and optimised construction methods such as computer-based topology optimisation, these high-tech suspension arms are becoming increasingly lighter, without compromising stability. Moreover, carefully chosen coatings and special varnishes from WILD's in-house surface treatment division contribute to a better hygiene. "In addition, we can integrate new product features in a very short time, manufacture spare parts, and also provide the necessary documentation for the certification of these devices", explains Franz Aigner, Head of Business Development for the WILD Group.

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Smart data glasses.

Using Microsoft's HoloLens mixed reality glasses, WILD can boost assembly precision, save time and protect the environment.

Assembly, diagnosis or training: the more complex a task, the easier it is to accomplish with clear visual instructions. Such assistance, however, does not necessarily have to be provided in person. By using the HoloLens mixed reality glasses, WILD demonstrates how tasks can be accomplished more quickly, flexibly and sustainably.

The data glasses have proven their worth particularly in the collaboration between WILD and PHOTONIC. "Be it modifications that require refresher training or questions that come up during assembly: many challenges that would previously require a business trip can now be solved using the mixed reality glasses", explains PHOTONIC Managing Director Stefan Zotter.

The advantage: staff members at different sites see exactly what their colleagues see and can project remarks or instructions directly into their field of vision. This makes technical contexts literally transparent, allowing for the recipient to understand them quickly. In addition, video tutorials are also available. These step-by-step instructions, specially designed for the adjustment and set-up of assemblies, allow staff members to directly work together, pause when necessary or repeat tricky steps.

"This helps reduce errors, increase efficiency, and guarantee top production standards", Zotter emphasises. In addition, it renders time-consuming business trips unnecessary, thus accelerating processes and cutting CO2 emissions. HoloLens is currently being used for internal collaboration. "In future, we could be using mixed reality systems to communicate with our customers even faster and more effectively", Zotter explains.

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THE WILD GROUP

The WILD Group is comprised of the WILD brands which are established in Völkermarkt and Wernberg (Austria) and Trnava (Slovakia), as well as Vienna-based PHOTONIC. The technology partner develops and produces optomechatronic systems for medical and industrial applications as well as optical technologies exclusively on behalf of its customers. Approximately 500 staff members are always the first choice whenever precision and reliability are called for and wherever innovation takes place.