



### About RHI AG

The Vienna-based company is an international technology leader for refractory materials with annual revenues of 1.6 billion Euros and over 7,600 employees worldwide. The main customers for RHI products, systems and services are key industries such as iron and steel, cement, quick lime, glass, non-iron metals, environment, energy and chemicals.



## RHI Secures Global Network with Barracuda NG Firewall

### Barracuda NG Firewall proves its worth on a daily basis

Back in 1998, the data network at RHI AG totaled 15 subsidiaries in Germany and Austria which were interconnected via Frame Relay and MAN (Metropolitan Area Network) technology. By 2009, there were more than 90 network-relevant locations, spread across four continents. As part of this growth, RHI sought a new approach that would allow it to move away from Frame Relay and MAN and to guarantee the efficient management of the complex infrastructure, while also ensuring reliable communications connections.

#### Swaying the balance in Barracuda's favor: Cost efficiency

"The decision to introduce a new infrastructure was mainly cost-driven," said Gottfried Hofreither, CIO at RHI. "We wanted to start using Internet technologies instead of expensive frame relay connections, but without having to make any concessions in terms of security. At the same time it was clear that we would not be able to operate cost-effectively with the hardware routers we had in place at that point." Following an in-depth evaluation the company opted in favor of the Barracuda NG Firewalls.

“The Barracuda NG Firewalls already included failover and Traffic Intelligence functions, which meant that we did not have to purchase any additional products. The management and rollout concept also address the particular requirements set by a globally distributed infrastructure.”

-Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Clemens Chizzali-Bonfadin,  
Manager of Global IT Security (CISO) at RHI AG

#### Cost savings after just two months

As the Barracuda NG Firewalls were implemented in succession, the company quickly realized enormous cost savings and increased bandwidth. By managing the global infrastructure centrally from Vienna, RHI only needed three employees for the entire worldwide network leading to additional cost savings. The decrease in staff was made possible by the Barracuda NG Control Center, which administrators use to: control the status of the remote gateways; to manage settings and licenses; and to collate information about individual or multiple gateways. RHI is also the first company to implement the Barracuda NG Earth for an extremely fast overview across the global VPN network.

#### Cost savings during the rollout

The Barracuda NG Firewall appliances integrate an operating system developed by Barracuda Networks and can be maintained in remote locations with no technical training.

"In the past we had to run multiple installations by onsite staff if the gateway was inaccessible – which is a rare occurrence," said Clemens Chizzali-Bonfadin, CISO at RHI.

"The total access to all important configurations on the remote gateways has resulted in a considerable increase in efficiency and cost reduction," said Hofreither. "For example, we hardly have any travel expenses now – a major factor with a global infrastructure like ours."

#### Redundant failover – there is always an alternative route

From the outset it was clear for Hofreither's team that connecting the international production facilities and sales subsidiaries in China would increase demands. Countries like China and India have advanced technologically in recent years, but even the infrastructure in 2009 does not correspond with the standard in western industrial countries. "Prioritizing the data traffic and redundant line failover were the basic requirements to ensure that processes could run smoothly in the global RHI network," said Hofreither. "In our estimation Barracuda NG Firewalls provide unrivaled functionality here that cannot be achieved by other products."

### Barracuda NG Firewall WAN Protection & Optimization Cost Efficiency at a glance

- Barracuda NG Firewall uses less expensive bandwidth and increased availability for cost savings of up to 90%. By using multiple carriers simultaneously bandwidth can be bundled.
- Extensible Barracuda NG Firewalls offer companies sustainable investment protection.
- Barracuda NG Control Center saves significant time and effort compared to other Firewall/VPN solutions.

## **About Barracuda NG Firewall WAN Protection & Optimization**

The Barracuda NG Firewall addresses all branch office networking requirements. Benefits include: security at an enterprise-wide level through integrated firewall and VPN gateways with a leading encryption system. Reaction times are optimized and bandwidth load reduced by local holding of frequently accessed content, prioritizing data flows and loss-free data compression. Some specific services such as DHCP can also be provided locally. The Traffic-Intelligence-Technology Barracuda has developed takes care of smart traffic distribution among dedicated lines, xDSL, ISDN, satellites, UMTS or Multi-Provider Uplinks. Furthermore every line is monitored and will allow for failsafe redistribution and re-prioritizing of communication. This ensures that all branches can always rely on accessing essential resources with adequate performance and can stay productive.

RHI has defined respective hubs for the individual regions which are all connected to each other and as such result in a fully meshed network. The locations connect up to these hubs and the physical lines used are Internet and MPLS based. Direct connections between the locations are also possible at any time if these are required more frequently. The Barracuda NG Firewalls detect faults automatically when lines fail and conduct a transparent failover to alternative connections (MPLS, Frame Relay, DSL, ISDN, leased lines, satellite-uplink or even dial-up). So in the event of link failure connection can still be upheld.

### **Traffic intelligence protects SAP traffic**

However, all measures to protect the connectivity at the link level are only effective to a certain extent if they are not completed using Traffic Intelligence systems. If these components are not in place, then scenarios can easily arise in which critical applications are inaccessible as long as bulk and mail traffic block the lines. For example, by using the integrated Traffic Intelligence function in the Barracuda NG Firewalls, RHI can guarantee that SAP traffic is given priority on the best lines (MPLS) and the bulk and mail traffic remains limited to Internet VPN. "As a result of our experience with networking international locations we are very pleased about the Traffic Intelligence, multi-provider and multi-link functions in the Barracuda NG Firewalls," said Chizzali-Bonfadin. "We achieve the highest levels of availability and service quality without having to purchase numerous service level agreements for other products."

**“If one is responsible for a highly critical infrastructure then the technology supplier’s customer orientation and market proximity are of major significance. The Barracuda route is the right one to take.”**

**-Gottfried Hofreither,**  
Chief Information Officer (CIO) at RHI AG

### **RHI stays productive even in a crisis**

"We don't need to speculate about our infrastructure's capability of keeping communications open in a crisis situation – it has already proven that this is the case," said Chizzali-Bonfadin. When an earthquake off Taiwan's coastline destroyed various important underwater cables in late 2006, numerous large corporations lost connectivity at their locations in Asia. However, the RHI subsidiaries in the region could still be reached and above all, remained productive. "Thanks to the centralized management and the redundant communications connections we were able to defuse the situation within just a few hours from our offices in Vienna so that the business processes were not negatively impacted," said Chizzali-Bonfadin.

### **Partners for the future**

Hofreither and Chizzali-Bonfadin have already surprised ISPs and outsourcing service providers on several occasions with detailed improvement suggestions for their technical infrastructures. A knowledge base has been built up during the close cooperation between RHI AG and Barracuda Networks which today allows the company to track down and deploy optimization potentials. "We were not just convinced by the solutions' pure technical benefits, but also by the flexibility and commitment shown by Barracuda," said Hofreither.

### **About Barracuda Networks Inc.**

Barracuda Networks Inc. combines premise-based gateways and software, cloud services, and sophisticated remote support to deliver comprehensive security, networking and storage solutions. The company's expansive product portfolio includes offerings for protection against email, Web and IM threats as well as products that improve application delivery and network access, message archiving, backup and data protection.

Coca-Cola, FedEx, Harvard University, IBM, L'Oreal, and Europcar are among the more than 100,000 organizations protecting their IT infrastructures with Barracuda Networks' range of affordable, easy-to-deploy and manage solutions. Barracuda Networks is privately held with its International headquarters in Campbell, Calif. For more information, please visit [www.barracudanetworks.com](http://www.barracudanetworks.com).