



### About RHI AG

The Vienna-based company is an international technology leader for refractory materials with annual revenues of some 1.6 billion Euros and over 7,600 employees worldwide working under the umbrella brand RHI in their core business area of refractories. 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 networks global locations with Barracuda

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. Today (2009), there are already over 90 network-relevant locations, spread across four continents. In view of this development, RHI sought a new solution approach a few years ago that would allow them to move away from Frame Relay and MAN and to guarantee the efficient management of the complex infrastructure and at the same time to ensure reliable communications connections.

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

"The decision to introduce a new infrastructure was mainly cost-driven," recalls Gottfried Hofreither, Chief Information Officer (CIO) at RHI AG. "We wanted to start using Internet technologies here 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 phase the company opted in favor of the Barracuda NG Firewalls.

### Cost savings after just two months

As the Barracuda NG solutions were implemented in succession, it soon became obvious that the expectations regarding drastic cost optimization had not been set too high: By moving away from frame relay, the company realized enormous cost savings and refinancing rates of two months per location, while increasing the bandwidth at the same time. Costs are further optimized by managing the global infrastructure centrally from Vienna because RHI only needs three employees for the entire worldwide network. This is made possible by the Barracuda NG Control Center which administrators use to control the status of the remote gateways, to make settings, manage licenses and collate information about individual or multiple gateways. RHI is also the first company to implement the Barracuda NG VPN World for an extremely fast overview across the global VPN network.

### Cost savings during the rollout

The Barracuda NG Firewall appliances are installed locally as software appliances on standard hardware. By integrating an operating system developed by the company itself, this process can even be implemented by staff with no technical training. As Clemens Chizzali-Bonfadin explains: "In the past we had to run multiple installations by staff onsite if the gateway was inaccessible – which is a rare occurrence." Gottfried Hofreither adds: "The total access to all important configurations on the remote gateways has resulted in considerable efficiency increases and cost reductions. 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 Gottfried Hofreither's team that connecting the international production facilities and sales subsidiaries in China would place particular demands on the connectivity solution. Countries like China and India have advanced technologically in recent years, but the infrastructure even in 2009 still 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," recalls Gottfried Hofreither. "In our estimation Barracuda NG Firewalls provide unrivalled functionality here that cannot be achieved by other products." 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 Barracuda NG solutions 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



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

- Barracuda NG lets you use bandwidths that are less expensive but offer increased availability and cost savings of up to 90%. By using multiple carriers simultaneously bandwidths can be bundled.
- Extendable Barracuda NG systems 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**

With its realization of the branch office box (BOB) concept, Barracuda NG provides a solution that convincingly addresses all subsidiary network requirements. What this brings among other benefits is: security at 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 contents, prioritizing of data flows and loss-free data compression. Some specific services such as DHCP can also be provided locally. The Traffic-Intelligence-Technology Barracuda Networks 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 your communication. This ensures that all branches can always rely on accessing essential resources with adequate performance and can stay productive.

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 solutions detect faults automatically if there is a line fault and conduct a transparent failover to alternative connections (generally possible; MPLS, Frame Relay, DSL, ISDN, leased lines, satellite-uplink or even dial-up). So if one location has no network access the 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," comments Clemens 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," comments Clemens Chizzali-Bonfadin. When a seaquake off Taiwan's coastline destroyed various important underwater cables in late 2006, numerous large corporations' Asian locations disappeared into a "back hole" for days. 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," explains Clemens Chizzali-Bonfadin.

### **RHI and Barracuda Networks – partners for the future**

Gottfried Hofreither and Clemens Chizzali-Bonfadin have already surprised ISPs and outsourcing service providers on several occasions with their detailed improvement suggestions for their technical infrastructures. A knowledge base has been built up during the close cooperation between RHI AG and Barracuda 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 Networks," confirms Gottfried Hofreither.

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

Barracuda Networks Inc. built its reputation as the worldwide leader in content security appliances by offering easy to use and affordable products that protect organizations from email, Web and IM threats. Barracuda Networks has leveraged its success in the security market to offer networking products that improve application delivery and network access as well as world-class solutions for message archiving, backup and data protection. Coca-Cola, FedEx, Harvard University, IBM, L'Oreal, and Europcar, are amongst the 100,000 organizations protecting their networks with Barracuda Networks' solutions. Barracuda Networks' success is due to its ability to deliver easy to use, comprehensive solutions that solve the most serious issues facing customer networks without unnecessary add-ons, maintenance, lengthy installations or per user license fees. Barracuda Networks is privately held with its headquarters in Campbell, Calif. Barracuda Networks has offices in 10 international locations and distributors in more than 80 countries worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.barracudanetworks.com](http://www.barracudanetworks.com).