

# barth logistics

customer story



**AEOS adds value at  
barth logistics' most  
important site**

## Facts at a glance

- ~700 employees
- 16 locations
- Integration with HR system
- Integration with licence-plate readers
- Integration with lift-management system
- Integration with telephone system

# AEOS adds value at barth logistics' most important site

## Enabling endless freedom and close control

barth logistics, based in Germany, already had 15 locations and around 700 employees when it opened its biggest site yet. This important new distribution centre in Hechingen has a fuel station, truck servicing area, offices and 50 loading gates, and it handles huge volumes of goods. So it's crucial it has the right physical access control system to protect it.

### A wide range of requirements

barth logistics' customers span many different industries and include companies transporting pharmaceutical drugs, dangerous goods, valuable items and more. Each has its own specific security requirements, and barth has to ensure it meets them.

### Tight control needed

To do this, barth's security managers need insight into, and control over, what's happening where. If a door's accidentally left open or someone tries to gain unauthorised entry, for example, the security team must be alerted so they can take action. They need to ensure employees from industrial areas don't have free access to the commercial area. And unauthorised access must not be allowed into critical operational areas, such as medication storage rooms.





### Access control for vehicles

barth logistics also wanted an easy way to manage access for contractors and vehicles, as well as employees. Almost 200 trucks drive onto the Hechingen site each day, and most of them are from external companies. So security managers need to be able to control and monitor who has access to which areas.

### Seamless connections

To help increase security and efficiency, barth logistics wanted the access control system at Hechingen to integrate easily with other systems and technologies. This includes systems for HR and lift management, for example, and licence-plate readers. And it wants to be free to integrate hardware from suppliers of its choice – rather than being locked into one vendor.

### AEOS meets every need

The ICT team at barth logistics was responsible for designing all infrastructure at the new centre in Hechingen, including physical access control. They were keen to use AEOS because they'd seen it in action at barth's other locations. But, quite rightly, they invited other companies to tender so they could ensure the right fit.

It quickly became clear that AEOS was the best option to meet their needs for this new site. And the ICT team collaborated closely with its security partner, ACEA (a Nedap channel partner in Germany), to design the system.





### **Straightforward to manage, maintain & integrate**

One of the key reasons for choosing AEOS was that, despite the high levels of security, safety and functionality it provides, it's very easy to manage via a web-based dashboard. It's low maintenance too, because you don't have to do system maintenance every week – once it's set up, it keeps on running. And, as an IP-based system, AEOS enables seamless integration with other systems and processes. This supports barth's goal of being hardware independent and gave a huge range of technologies, hardware and vendors to choose from when designing this new security ecosystem.

---

Dirk Kappert, managing director at ACEA says: "Because of AEOS's integration capabilities, there are many modules that can be set up without customers having to buy additional licences. And, as Nedap tests all AEOS integrations rigorously and provides technical support for all of them, there's lots of reassurance around compatibility and reliability."

### **Access rights assigned automatically**

One system that barth logistics integrated with AEOS was its HR system. AEOS is connected to its payroll and time and attendance databases, and the HR department no longer has to manually set up which employees get access to where. Roles and authorisations can be pre-defined for users in AEOS. So, when someone is hired, their access rights are assigned automatically by the HR system. If these rights need to be changed for some reason, it can be done quickly and easily.

## Access to lifts controlled

barth logistics also integrated the lifts with its AEOS access control system. This improves safety and security as people are only allowed to enter a lift and stop off at a floor if they're authorised to do so. It also improves efficiency as people are directed to the best lift car for their destination, meaning shorter queues in the lobby.

## Integrated licence-plate readers

To increase security and improve efficiency on the site's perimeter, barth logistics integrated a license-plate reader with AEOS. And a monitor in the despatch department gives a clear view of what's happening at the entrance.

If a truck's licence plate is recognised by the reader, the barrier opens automatically – so there's no time wasted registering with a guard or presenting an access card. If, however, the licence plate isn't recognised or is covered in snow, the driver can use their access badge to open the barrier or the intercom to request entry.

## Unobtrusively invaluable

Via these various integrations and a wide range of functionalities, AEOS runs silently in the background, unobtrusively managing the flow of people and goods. It means people have the space and focus to concentrate on their work without being hindered in any way.

---

Lucas Wahl, IT systemadministrator at barth logistics comments: "AEOS's integration capabilities are so valuable. Once you start working with AEOS, you get used to the fact you can easily adapt and scale your access control system and integrate new and existing technologies. You forget this isn't normal and begin to take it for granted."





## Unlimited flexibility

Dirk of ACEA agrees and explains that it's not only the integration possibilities that make AEOS so valuable but the range of functionality within AEOS itself.

---

He says: "AEOS is so flexible, the only limits on what you can do with it are the limits in your imagination. There are thousands of free module blocks available for AEOS, so we can easily use these to tailor each system and create customised configurations to suit the customer." Dirk Kappert, managing director, ACEA

## Highly reliable and secure

Aside from AEOS's integration capabilities and flexibility, another key characteristic that barth logistics appreciates is its reliability. As AEOS uses a controller, even if the database server or application server don't work, it will still function and open doors. This gives peace of mind that security and control will still be in place if barth's network goes down for some reason.

AEOS also offers various ways to protect the system against cybercrime. And it enables barth to set different levels of security for different scenarios, which can be really helpful in ensuring compliance with various procedures and legislation. One way they increased security at the Hechingen site, for example, is by using PIN verification in some areas. To gain entry to these areas, people must enter a PIN as well as presenting their card.



## A well-used system with lots of further potential

“Our latest implementation of AEOS has been a great project to work on. It helped that we had all the right people with the right knowledge involved right from the start. And, because we made sure the system worked perfectly for everyone’s needs from the beginning, barth employees have really embraced it and are using it as intended. This was really important for us. The weakest link in security is often the people using a system. And, if the system doesn’t work well, people create workarounds. We’re delighted that AEOS is up and running and being well used at our Hechingen site.”  
Lucas Wahl, IT manager, barth logistics

“We’re delighted it was such an easy decision for barth logistics to choose AEOS for its new site and that the system is working so well. It’s also a pleasure to see our partner ACEA offering added value through their in-depth knowledge of AEOS and the potential it offers. We hope barth will continue to maximise the opportunities and benefits that AEOS brings, especially as we add new functionality and integrations in the future.” Christian Nagel, Channel Partner Manager, Nedap