

Move securely within the cyberworld

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## To Luxembourg's press editors

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**ATENA workshop on October 18, 2018**

itrust consulting and the University of Luxembourg jointly organized and hosted a successful public workshop on 18 October, 2018, focusing on the H2020 ATENA project (<https://www.atena-h2020.eu/>), the topic of which is Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructures (CIs).

The purpose of ATENA is to build a suite of integrated tools to help CI operators manage and respond to cyberattacks in near-real-time so as to maintain the necessary quality of service of such infrastructures. ATENA has chosen to focus on the case of critical utilities, that are electricity, water and natural gas provisioning. The recent cyberattack that brought down the power grid in Ukraine in 2017 serves as a chilling example of the kind of scenarios that ATENA aims to defend against.

The day began with a fascinating keynote speech by Dr. Klaus Kursawe (Gridsec) on the perils inherent to the modern smart grid and more generally to the Information Technology/Operational Technology (IT/OT) convergence in the Internet-of-Things (IoT) world, which is creating plenty of new security holes. He showed how millions of smart meters currently in Europe can be attacked due to inappropriate cryptographic design. According to Luxmeters, this flaw was successfully removed before deployment in Luxembourg. François Thill (Ministry of the Economy) then took the stage to stress the importance of communication and information sharing across stakeholders for societal situational awareness.

Paolo Pucci (ATENA's project coordinator, from Leonardo) and Prof. Dr. Stefano Panzieri (ATENA's technical coordinator, from University Roma Tre) introduced the audience to the ATENA project's goals. Technical talks and demos by many ATENA partners – including itrust consulting - then showcased ATENA's project results, covering everything from CI modeling, to intrusion detection, to real-time risk assessments and finally risk mitigation.

The afternoon continued with talks by Prof. Panzieri on the H2020 project RESISTO, and Dr. Carlo Harpes (itrust consulting) on the Luxembourgish projects SGL Cockpit and IDS4ICS. The latter highlighted the potential in exploiting synergies between ATENA and itrust consulting tools (e.g. TRICK Service <https://www.trickservice.com/>) from these national efforts. In particular, tools for monitoring security in real time now await to be tested by CI operators.

Finally, Dr. Harpes moderated a round-table on CI security and how research contributes to it, with Dr. Kursawe, Leonid Lev (IEC), Reinhard Hutter (CESS), and Mr. Pucci participating. An emphasis was made that R&D projects for CIs are better off thinking of how to concretely deploy their products in the field in order to maximize their impact. Indeed, a panellist pointed out that the main weakness of R&D programmes is the lack of a controlled, funded or structured transition from 'R&D result' to

'operational product'. Regarding the question of who among regulators, operators or manufacturers are the key enablers to improving security, it appears that each of these actors has an important, distinct role to play which needs to be taken more seriously now than in the past. A panellist even ironically suggested switching off power once per year to give citizens a feeling of the value and the need to protect it.

### **Aboutitrust consulting**

itrust consulting, an SME from Luxembourg specializing in Information Security helps its customers from both the public and private sectors to protect their information against any divulgation, manipulation, or unavailability. Its services are related to building, implementing, and auditing Information Security Management Systems, assessing and treating risk with its own TRICK Service tool, deploying security experts whenever needed (SECaaS or Security as a Service), on request hacking of our customers and handling cybersecurity incidents (malware.lu CERT), or designing and operating security solutions for ICT. These services benefit intensively from co-funded national and European research projects.

### **About SnT and SECAN-Lab**

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust (SnT) is a research centre at the University of Luxembourg. Through its Partnership Programme, SnT researchers, together with industry and public partners, address present-day challenges in ICT. The Programme fosters the development of innovative ideas, establishing Luxembourg as a European Centre of Excellence and Innovation in the field of secure, reliable, and trustworthy ICT systems and services.

SECAN-Lab conducts internationally competitive fundamental and applied research in computer networking, privacy, and security, namely in the areas of privacy by distribution, network and system security, SCADA and cyber security, IoT, vehicular communication and multimodal traffic management, and wireless networks and mobile security. Headed by Prof. Dr. Thomas Engel, SECAN-Lab is composed of a balanced team of established high-level research associates, doctoral candidates and research management professionals spanning across a variety of fields, and with many contributing with a significant industry expertise gained at both national and international levels.

SECAN-Lab is an integral part of both SnT and FSTC as one of their core Research Groups, establishing leading international research and innovation in secure, reliable and trustworthy ICT systems and services. Its innovative projects are embedded in national and European policies, most notably in its efforts to contribute to Luxembourg's successful economic diversification.

### **About ATENA**

ATENA (Advanced Tools to assEss and mitigate the criticality of ICT compoNents and their dependencies over Critical InfrAstructures) is a European project funded by the Horizon 2020 programme on 'Digital Security: Cybersecurity, Privacy and Trust, H2020-DS-2015'. The ATENA project aims at achieving the desired level of Security and Resilience of the considered CIs, while preserving their efficient and flexible management. ATENA, leveraging the outcomes of previous European Research activities, particularly the CockpitCI and MICIE EU projects, will remarkably upgrade them by exploiting advanced features of ICT algorithms and components, and will bring them at operational industrial maturity level; in this last respect, ATENA outcomes will be tailored and validated in selected use cases. <https://www.atena-h2020.eu/>.