FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | OT Backup with Air Gap

How HAHN Automation Group protects critical backups and prepares for targeted recovery

Following a ransomware incident, HAHN Automation Group investigated how it could start recovering its most important systems more quickly. The company added Silent Bricks to its existing Veeam architecture for immutable backups that can be physically disconnected. Restores to Proxmox and VMware have been tested.

An attack brought recovery requirements into focus

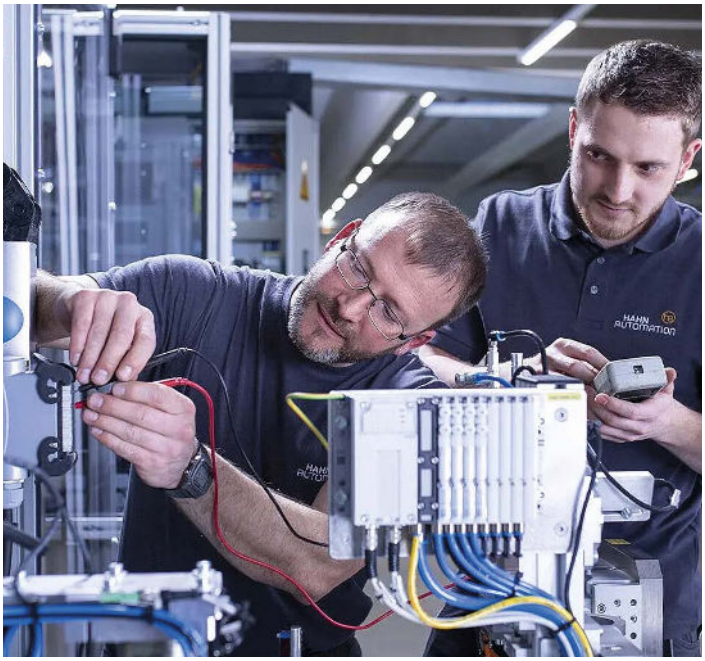
HAHN Automation Group builds industrial assembly lines and supports installations at customer sites around the world. Design data, documentation and service information sometimes need to remain available for more than twenty years. In the case study, the company reports 7.6 petabytes of installed storage. Backups were collected in a decentralised manner and transferred to three central storage systems, with access rights managed through Active Directory at the time.

During an earlier ransomware attack, internal specialists needed weeks to determine which data had been affected. That incident occurred before Silent Bricks were implemented. The IT team subsequently defined more precisely which core systems needed to be restored first, how backup points should be assessed and which storage needed protection against modification. The goal was to begin recovery more quickly in the event of a severe attack.

The experience?

“Our key requirements were performance, immutability and a physical air gap. That led us directly to FAST LTA.”

Frank Benke, Head of IT at HAHN Automation Group



Photos: Hahn Automation Group, May 2026

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A protected location for core systems

HAHN and FAST LTA jointly developed a setup that fits into the broader Veeam strategy. The recovery plan distinguishes between production systems that are rebuilt from scratch after a severe attack and systems that are then used to verify data. For critical backups, performance, immutability and a physical air gap were decisive. Silent Bricks were implemented in January 2025. The company later tested integration with a new version of Veeam and restores to Proxmox and VMware. According to Head of IT Frank Benke, these tests went well.

The team also uses Fast Clone with Veeam. With this approach, a new synthetic full backup largely references data blocks that have already been stored. This reduces repeated write operations and shortens the backup window.

Tested restores as preparation for recovery

Benke reports that the system operated reliably after implementation, including after a complete shutdown and restart over a weekend. Thanks to the protected backup point, he expects that, in the event of a compromise, the team will not first have to wait for the same forensic clearance before recovery of core systems can begin. He expects recovery to start within a few days.

The expectation of a faster recovery start is based on the protected backups and preparation of the recovery process. The tested restores, functioning Veeam integration and stable operation demonstrate what HAHN has already achieved with the new setup.