VORWERK

FAQ about the "Thinking Carpet"

Question: *Does the appearance of the "Thinking Carpet" differ from that of a "normal" carpet?*

Answer: No. The look, feel, walking comfort and all properties typical of a contract carpet are maintained.
The only carpets which are going to look different are those with built-in LED modules.

Question: *Does the "Thinking Carpet" have to be specially cleaned?*

Answer: No. The carpet has been constructed for the usual methods of cleaning. No special consideration must be given to the electronics.

Question: *Is it dangerous when electronic contacts are blank and exposed?*

Answer: No. The carpet's construction prevents this. However, should exposure occur nonetheless as a result of improper use, the low 12-Volt voltage and the automatic, self-induced power cut-off rule out dangerous situations.

Question: *Can wetness cause short-circuiting?*

Answer: Yes. However, wet areas are identified by the network and shut themselves off fully automatically. After they have dried they are functional once again.

Question: *Can one simply cut through wires in order to neutralise the alarm function?*

Answer: No. If wires in the "Thinking Carpet" are severed, the network attempts to sustain the function via the circuits that still function; as if it quasi reorganises itself. This process requires merely a few milliseconds. As severing a circuit is identified immediately, an alarm can be triggered in the same instant.

Question: *How are the carpet's functions controlled and analysed?*

Answer: The network in the carpet merely has to be connected to a PC via an interface. Additional functionality thereafter is dependent upon the software involved.

Question: *How many square metres does it take until I need a new computer?*

Answer: One coherently joined network – which can display up to 9999 modules - is controlled by one computer. If the computer has several serial interfaces, then several carpets can be connected to it. The carpet size in m² is thus equal to the number of modules per m² (1 to 25, depending upon the application).

Question: ***When is the first "Thinking Carpet" going to be commercially available?***

Answer: An integration of the modules' functionality in a single silicon chip is necessary for product development. This chip development is supposed to begin in the spring of 2005. It is anticipated that this development shall take two years.

Question: ***What is a square metre of "Thinking Carpet" going to cost?***

Answer: The costs are going to depend upon the respective functionality and the number of modules used per square metre. In addition, demand is also going to determine the price. A statement as to the actual costs cannot be made at the present time.