

Company profile

Ambassadors for safety

## **Complete solutions for safe automation**

Pilz GmbH & Co. KG  
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**Faster, more flexible, safer – the level of automation on plant and machinery continues to advance in all industries with these objectives in mind. This places new demands on production systems. As a complete supplier for safe automation, Pilz is a company whose name is synonymous worldwide with safety for human, machine and the environment, providing automation solutions for all industries.**

**Right from the start, innovation was the key to success.** Founded in Esslingen in 1948 as a glass-blowing business for medical and technical devices, in the 60s the company developed into a supplier of electronic control and monitoring devices and programmable logic control systems. Since then this highly traditional family business has continued to set standards in the field of safe automation: in 1968 with the first two-hand control relay and in 1987 with the first emergency stop relay PNOZ (**Pilz-NOT-AUS-Zwangsgeführt**) – an unusual name for an unusual product (“Pilz E-Stop positive-guided” in English). The PNOZ quickly progressed to be the **world’s most widely used safety relay**. This was followed in 1997 by the safe, open bus system SafetyBUS p for decentralised networking of plant and machinery. 2002 saw the introduction of the configurable control system PNOZmulti: for the first time, users were able to configure their required safety functions on the PC, rather than manually through wiring, as before. Further innovations included the world’s first safe camera system SafetyEYE for three-dimensional zone monitoring.

## **Complete safe automation suppliers**

Based on its **core competency, safety**, the company has evolved into a complete automation solutions supplier – safety and automation are intelligently combined. Many years of experience and extensive knowledge from the field of safety technology are being transferred to the requirements of general plant and machinery control. Customer benefit: one-stop, tailor-made automation solutions. The automation system PSS 4000, launched in 2009 for all automation tasks, definitely follows this direction. The Industrie 4.0-compatible automation system supports users through the engineering process, from start to finish.

The **product range** also includes sensor technology, electronic monitoring relays, safety relays, configurable control systems, industrial communication systems, automation solutions with motion control, as well as visualisation solutions and operator terminals.

With digitisation and networking, Security is taking on an increasingly important role in automation. Pilz incorporates the issue of **Industrial Security at the machine** and not only protects human and environment from hazards, but ensures that devices, plant and machinery are also safe from unauthorised access and manipulation.

Pilz system solutions are used in all areas of mechanical engineering, as well as the automotive, food and woodworking industry, intralogistics, railway technology or the robotics sector. What's more, products from the technology leader guarantee that baggage handling systems run safely at airports, theatre scenery moves smoothly and funiculars or roller coasters travel safely. Pilz system solutions not only guarantee increased safety for man and machine but are also more cost effective, as production cycles can be designed more efficiently and downtimes can be avoided.

For Pilz, safety is more than just a product. That's why the company makes its many years of expertise available in the form of a **comprehensive services package**. With safety consulting and engineering, Pilz offers a comprehensive and competent service – from plant assessment to risk analysis through to system implementation and verification at the customer's premises. Product training courses and machinery safety seminars are also part of the package. In 2013, Pilz worked with TÜV NORD to establish the international training programme CMSE® – Certified Machinery Safety Expert, in doing so setting the first standards for international, certified training in the field of machinery safety.

### **Family business – a globally recognised brand**

Renate Pilz joined the company in 1975 after the death of her husband. "I wanted to continue my husband's vision to create an international company, committed to its employees and customers, and one day to pass this on to our children as our joint life's work", says Pilz's former Chair of the Board. **At the end of 2017, Renate Pilz handed over the executive management to her daughter Susanne Kunschert and son Thomas Pilz, both Managing Partners.** The Pilz brand is now one of the world's leading industry brands.

### **Expertise and innovative spirit**

At Pilz, products are often developed in conjunction with or under contract from customers. "The primary task of our research and development department is to develop products that meet customer and market requirements. Customer proximity and innovation belong together and are mutually dependent. That's why we work closely with our customers as well as universities and approvals bodies. So

we are always able to bring innovations to the market and set new standards”, Thomas Pilz explains.

As a member of the **Research Alliance**, the central, innovative policy body that advises the German Government, Pilz has played a significant part in developing the **Industrie 4.0** initiative. Pilz works on committees such as Baden-Württemberg's Industrie 4.0 Alliance, the Research Platform SmartFactory KL, the industry consortium OPC Foundation and the Research Campus Arena 2036, developing common, practicable standards for the industry of the future – always from the perspective of Safety and Security.

### **Safety for the environment too**

Safety for human, machine and the environment – a motto the complete, safe automation supplier intends to live up to, but not just through products and solutions. Pilz also acts accordingly. The issue of environmental protection is firmly anchored in the group objectives: from the development of energy-saving products to the ecological design of buildings through to environmentally-aware work practices. “As ‘ambassadors for safety’, our aim is to improve the safety of human and machine worldwide”, says Susanne Kunschert, summarising her company’s mission. “That includes the environment in which we live and work.”

In addition to its head office in Ostfildern, Pilz also supports users worldwide with **42 subsidiaries**, offering sales and engineering services locally. Across the world, more than **2,500 employees** apply their knowledge in the service of safe automation, ensuring it also becomes established in new markets.

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## Pilz at a glance

**Industry:** Automation technology;  
Core competency: safe automation

**Year founded:** 1948

### **Management:**

Thomas Pilz (Managing Partner),  
Susanne Kunschert (Managing Partner)

**Employees:** Around 2,500 worldwide

**Turnover (2025):** 338 million Euro

**Subsidiaries and branches:** 42 worldwide

**Quality standard:** DIN EN ISO 9001:2000

### **Products / systems**

- Configurable and programmable control systems
- Safety relays
- Sensor technology (safety bolts and switches, light curtains, safety gate and camera systems)
- Electronic monitoring devices
- Systems for industrial communication (safe bus and Ethernet systems)
- Visualisation solutions and operator terminals
- Control and signal devices

### **Services**

- Consulting
- Engineering
- Training

