

August 2018

## Climate protection in the supermarket

**smartGAS Mikrosensorik GmbH cooperates with the Spanish market leader AKO Electromecànica, S.A.L. in the field of commercial refrigerant monitoring**

In the interplay of the terms "environmental protection" and "supermarket" everyone probably thinks first of organic products and sustainable agriculture. An essential part of the logistic chain from the field to the consumer, however, is the correct storage and the uninterrupted cooling of the food.

The cooling systems used for this purpose use refrigerants, such as R134a or R404a, which are more than 1000 times more damaging to the global climate than the much cited CO<sub>2</sub>. In the case of leaks, therefore, even small amounts of the refrigerant in the atmosphere can cause a great environmental damage.

As a technology leader in the field of reliable NDIR gas sensors, the Heilbronn-based company smartGAS Mikrosensorik GmbH has developed special sensors that are now used in the monitoring devices of the Spanish market leader AKO Electromecànica, S.A.L. from Barcelona.

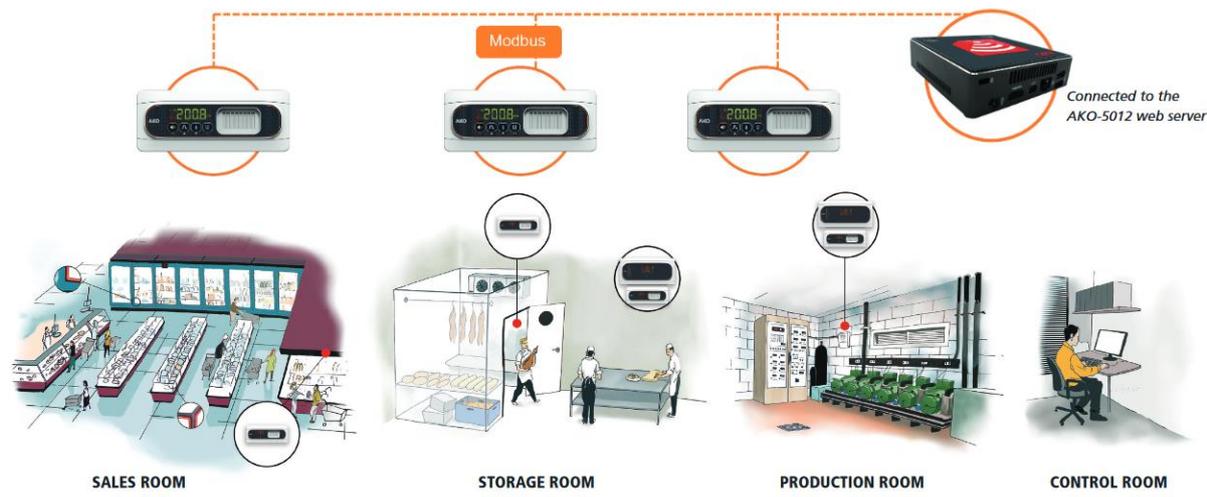
"We are proud to cooperate with a key player like AKO and to work on new innovative solutions together. This partnership is not only beneficial for economic reasons; it is also a significant contribution to protecting the environment for the next generations." Christian Stein, CEO of smartGAS, says.

Following joint development work and extensive field tests, a cooperation agreement was signed at beginning of 2018 which defines a long term partnership of both companies.



*smartGAS Mikrosensorik GmbH and AKO Electromecànica, S.A.L. sign cooperation contract for environment protecting refrigerant leak detector products.*

Thanks to the consistent monitoring of the supermarket cooling systems by the devices from AKO and smartGAS, even the smallest leaks and thus escaping refrigerant can be detected early on and damages can be repaired.



## AKOGAS concept for supermarkets

In addition to environmental protection, the use of reliable gas leak monitors also contributes significantly to reducing the operating costs in the supermarket. Refilling the systems with refrigerant is expensive and with decreasing filling-amount the energy-efficiency of the cooling system suffers which in return increases the energy consumption and operating costs.

“Optimizing operating costs while improving performance is a clear competitive advantage nowadays. We at AKO understand it as our mission to help our customers taking advantage of these opportunities and stay ahead of the game when it comes to implementing the best solution for their needs.” Carlos Sánchez Sánchez, Director of Operations at AKO points out.

His statement becomes even more important considering the ongoing retrofit of already installed cooling systems where e.g. R404a was used so far.

Forced by the so called “F-Gas regulation”, a guide line set in force by the EU, many of the so far used refrigerants will be phased out soon and will either be replaced by new ones or the existing installations have to be rebuilt completely which incorporates high costs for the operators.

Following from that it becomes clear that the smart monitoring solutions from AKO and smartGAS are the perfect fit to save costs on the one side but to stay compliant with all environmental requirements on the other side.

### About AKO

AKO (<http://www.ako.com>) is a global company which design, manufacture and develop products and solutions for the control of commercial refrigeration, with more than 40 years of experience and presence in 30 countries.

### About smartGAS

smartGAS Mikrosensorik GmbH ([www.smartgas.eu](http://www.smartgas.eu)) is specialised in NDIR gas sensing solutions. With a sales network and partners in EU, North America and Asia we support our customers with sustainable and reliable products to serve their needs in the best way.