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## IN THIS ISSUE



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### PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

At the InterContinental Citystars Hotel in Cairo (Egypt) we had a unique opportunity to look behind the scenes. The top two floors have been completely renovated, and for this the hotel chose the Vantage InFusion system together with the Micros Fidelio hotel reservation system and Vingcard room management. This optimal integration creates unprecedented opportunities to offer today's hotel guests a very relaxed holiday atmosphere with high-quality, elegant finishing.

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## PRODUCT NEWS

Following up on the launch of Equinox 40 in September last year, Vantage has launched the new Vantage Equinox 73 interface and associated apps for mobile devices, including Android and iOS. With a 7-inch touchscreen and twelve\* pre-programmed widgets with accompanying apps, navigation has never been easier. Read all about it in this issue.

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\* The number of pre-programmed widgets and apps may vary depending on the update level.

## EQUINOX 41

We proudly announce the launch of Equinox 41, the last planned hardware release in the Equinox family after the EQ40 and EQ73 models. The EQ41 features the same concept and the same auto configure setup as the EQ73, but with single widget view and a 4-inch screen in place of the 7-inch screen and three widget view of the EQ73. However, the EQ41 can handle four graphical metadata levels, the same as the EQ73, making it superior to the EQ40 in that regard.

After announcing the new timer widget and shades widget, we are constantly working on developing new and undated widgets. At present there are twelve different widgets available on the new EQ41: Lighting, Video, Weather; Scenes, Climate, Security, Audio, Cameras, Home Theatre, Pool Spa, and the new Shades and Timer widgets.

More detailed information will be available in the next Issue of Vantage Home Automation News. We also invite you to visit our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/VantageEMEA](http://www.youtube.com/VantageEMEA)

The new EQ41 is available immediately.

## EDITORIAL



Koen Pepermans  
Managing Director

The latest issue of Vantage Home Automation News has been a while in the making, but we're pleased to start off with the news that our Equinox 73 touchscreen won the prestigious Product of the Year 2014 Award. That came in recognition of its easily adaptable and programmable interface as well as its unique minimalist design and 7-inch touchscreen, which assures intuitive operation. In this issue we also tip the veil on our new showroom and training centre in Beveren. There you can get acquainted with a broad range of our Vantage products. Please make an appointment for a visit, and we will be pleased to immerse you in a total Vantage experience. We promise to tell you all the details in upcoming issues.



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## INTERCONTINENTAL CITYSTARS HOTEL, CAIRO

# Smart integration maximises hotel comfort

The luxurious Citystars Cairo Hotel is located in the midst of the fashionable New Cairo district. The hotel is next to the trendy Stars Centre shopping centre with an imposing 640 shops. The two top floors of the hotel, containing the suites and the penthouses, were fully renovated. Vantage provided the home automation infrastructure for the suites and penthouses as well as the interface to the room management system.

The hotel management rolled out a hotel management system to optimise the quality of the guest experience. In combination with the Vantage system, this enables automation of room amenities such as lighting and curtains and allows related relevant information to be passed on to the staff. The InterContinental Group chose the Vantage InFusion system on account of its performance and stability. The hotel management team were also enthusiastic about elegant style and high-quality finishing of the keypads.

In each of the 43 luxury suites there is a compact equipment compartment, concealed from the guests, that houses the necessary dimmers and relays. This keeps the cable lengths short,

and it allows maintenance staff to perform their tasks without blocking the corridor.

### Home automation

The Vantage system integrates several smart home automation capabilities in each of the suites. For instance, the system controls the lighting and looks after opening and closing the curtains. It can also control the heating and cooling functions of the HVAC system. Hotel guests can operate the system using the keypads or their iPad, iPhone or BlackBerry. The desired mood – Night Light, TV Mood, Business Mood, All On, etc. – can be called up with a single touch on the keypad, iPad, iPhone or BlackBerry.

### Integration with the room management system

Extensive integration of the Vantage InFusion system with the Micros Fidelio and Vingcard room management systems creates significant added value for hotel guests as well as staff. For instance, the keypads in each suite have a Do Not Disturb (DND) button. When this button is pressed, notification is automatically sent to the Fidelio system and the doorbell is disabled. The DND state is also shown on a status screen out-

side the room. The Make Up Room (MUR) button acts in a similar manner. It tells the Fidelio system whether or not the guest wishes to have the room cleaned.

### Check-in and check-out

The check-in function ensures that the room conform to the standards set by the hotel for temperature, curtain opening and so on when the guest arrives. The check-out function is primarily oriented to optimising energy efficiency. For example, the lighting and air conditioning are automatically switched off and the curtains are closed when this function is activated.

### Who's in the room?

A special Presence indicator on a panel outside the room shows whether or not someone is in the room. The system is also able to distinguish between guests and staff. Motion sensors that detect human presence are installed in the rooms, and the system keeps track of which key was last used – a guest key or a staff key – to determine who is currently present in the room.

### Various scenarios

The Vantage keypads installed in the 43 suites



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### BILL OF MATERIALS

- (1x) 4-button keypad (with indicators for Do Not Disturb, Make Up Room and Presence, and a doorbell function)
- (1x) 4-button keypad at the entrance (All On, All Off, Do Not Disturb, Make Up Room)
- (2x) 8-button keypads to the left and right of the bed
- (1x) 8-button keypad in the living room area (if present)
- (1x) 8-button keypad in the dining area (if present)
- (1x) Interface for iPhone, iPad and Blackberry
- Motion sensors

### ABOUT THE DEALER

The Vantage system in the InterContinental Citystars Hotel was installed by Smart Solutions. In the implementation and execution of their projects, these Cairo-based installation specialists strive to make the interaction between people and technology as smooth and functional as possible. For this reason, Smart Solutions works exclusively with systems and materials that facilitate a reliable and consistent user experience and that can be extended or upgraded later on. This makes it possible to implement new technological innovations and accommodate changes desired by the customer.

[www.egyptsmartsolutions.com](http://www.egyptsmartsolutions.com)

### The result

Hotel guests nowadays primarily look for a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere, preferably in a comfortable, clean and attractive room or suite. This allows them to relax in pleasant surroundings after a long day's work or busy holiday activities. The Vantage system also provides significant added value in the suites and penthouses of the InterContinental Citystars Hotel. Guests see that many of their wishes can be fulfilled by simply pressing a button. For instance, they can open or close the curtains or activate the Do Not Disturb function without getting out of bed. It's hardly surprising that potential guests are more and more inclined to take the availability of such features into account when choosing a hotel.

### Smart Solutions

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### Optimal integration with Fidelio and Vingcard creates unprecedented benefits

The remarkable Presence function is just one example of the enormous benefits arising from the strong collaboration between the Vantage system and the Fidelio and Vingcard systems. A Presence indicator on a status panel outside the room shows whether or not someone is in the room. The system also knows whether

a guest or a staff member is in the room. All this is made possible by sensitive motion sensors in the room that detect every human presence, and the fact that the system keeps track of which key was last used – a guest key or a staff key – to determine precisely who is currently in the room.

## LEARN MORE

### ISE

AMSTERDAM 4-6 FEBRUARY 2014



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This year Vantage again participated in the Integrated Systems Europe trade show in Amsterdam. Visitors could get acquainted with several attractive new features of our revolutionary Equinox control concept and learn about the new Vantage/Nuvo top-quality audio system, which targets the upper end of the residential market. ISE, the trade show for the professional AV and electronic system integration industry, celebrated its 11th edition this year. If you weren't able to attend, visit our Facebook page for a photo report on the trade show or make a note in your diary to visit the show next year on 10-12 February or in our Showroom.

[www.facebook.com/vantagehomeautomation](http://www.facebook.com/vantagehomeautomation)



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### NEW SHOWROOM

We've already tipped the veil on this a few times in the journal. If we've pricked your curiosity and you would like to see our showroom in real life, you're welcome to visit us in Beveren (Belgium) between 9am and 4pm any workday (by appointment). We are closed Sundays and on public holidays. If you want to be kept informed of planned events and activities, please send us an e-mail at [contact@vantage-emea.com](mailto:contact@vantage-emea.com). You should also keep an eye on our Facebook page and visit our photo album, where we frequently post pictures of work in progress.

[www.facebook.com/vantagehomeautomation](http://www.facebook.com/vantagehomeautomation)

### PHOTOS

Cover : ISE Amsterdam Vantage stand  
 pp 2-3 no. 2-3 : InterContinental Citystars  
 Hotel main entrance  
 no. 4 : Royal Suite  
 no. 5 : Junior Suite  
 no. 6 : Two-Bedroom Suite

PRODUCT NEWS

# Creating the ultimate user experience with the easily customised Equinox interface

An LCD touchscreen and matching apps for mobile devices dramatically simplify the operation of integrated home automation systems.

Owners and users looking for a comfortable and refined living environment are often frustrated by unnecessarily complicated home automation solutions. By contrast, the Vantage Equinox product family offers simple but extremely customisable interfaces which, in combination with the powerful InFusion control system, make operation extremely flexible and give a subtle aesthetic touch to every interior.



In addition to its intuitive design, Equinox is uniquely customisable and adaptable to changing user lifestyles. Furthermore, this product family opens up new horizons for system integrators for the effective configuration of both fixed and mobile interfaces – an unprecedented combination of options that clearly make the difference for quality-conscious consumers.

### Equinox 73

The slim Equinox 73 with its full-glass LCD touchscreen (7" screen diagonal and three full widgets) uses presence detection and light sensors to automatically activate the desired custom mood and adapt to prevailing lighting conditions.

Equinox 73 users directly experience versatile system operation with a luxurious look and feel, including animations and twelve pre-programmed widgets. Navigation is child's play with simple touch and swipe operation. There are also two touch buttons: one for navigating to the start page and another that can be programmed by a certified Vantage integrator according to the customer's wishes.

### Consistent mobile apps

The Equinox apps for tablets and smartphones running iOS or Android are effectively a mobile extension of the Equinox 73 touchscreen. These consistent apps have been specifically developed to have the same look and feel for the user as the GUI of the touchscreen.

### Highly customised operation

The Equinox 73 and its mobile interfaces offer users numerous ways to radically simplify the control and operation of the system. Once the

screen has been configured by a Vantage integrator, end users can customise it to suit their wishes and can save the widget parameter settings using a simple on-screen interface to compile fully individual dashboard profiles. Any desired number of profiles can be created. Every dashboard can be re-

trieved using a simple drop-down menu. With a prescriptive template for fast programming and easy on-screen customisation, then Equinox 73 provides a unique user experience.

### Simplified interface programming

The touchscreen and the accompanying apps are initially being launched with nine pre-programmed widgets for controlling essential home automation functions: lighting, moods, weather, indoor temperature, multi-zone audio/video, home cinema, cameras and security. With the associated release of Design Center 3.2.0.4 (DC), Vantage's programming tool for integrators, data can be loaded automatically from the DC file into the widgets. This vastly simplifies interface programming for dealers, and it gives users a more consistent overview of all system functions.

The innovative design of Equinox was in part driven by specific feedback from our user base. We listened to what our customers had to say and developed a product that evolves with the needs of our users. Equinox is the archetype of intuitive, adaptable and easily programmed user interfaces.

The launch of the Equinox 73 and its mobile apps follows the previous launch of the Equinox 40 and is a logical continuation of Vantage's popular line of intuitive flush-mounted LCD keyboards with touchscreens and mobile apps for the ultimate user experience in the top end of the home automation sector.

To learn more about the Equinox 73, surf to [www.vantagecontrols.com/products/whats-new](http://www.vantagecontrols.com/products/whats-new)

Naturally, you can also consult your dealer or contact your Vantage support specialist.

VANTAGE TRAINING

### TRAINING DATES 2014

After reading this newsletter, are you keen to become an official Vantage dealer? If so, you need to complete one of our hands-on Vantage InFusion Certification courses. The course dates in the next few months are listed below. This intensive training is designed to help you acquire all the expertise and professional knowledge you need to act as a Vantage dealer and offer all of our products in a truly professional manner.

#### BELGIUM (ANTWERP)

8 - 2/12/2014 (English) InFusion Certification

#### ITALY (VARESE)

03 - 07/11/2014

### TRAINING DATES 2015

#### BELGIUM (ANTWERP)

- 12 - 16/01/2015 (French) InFusion Certification
- 16 - 20/03/2015 (English) InFusion Certification
- 14 - 15/04/2015 (English) Advanced training
- 16 - 17/04/2015 (English) Driver tools training
- 8 - 12/06/2015 (English) InFusion Certification
- 14 - 18/09/2015 (English) InFusion Certification
- 7 - 11/12/2015 (English) InFusion Certification

Contact us for information about other training dates for InFusion certification, advanced training or driver tools training. We will also keep you informed by e-mail about upcoming webinars. To register for training courses or request additional information, please contact Sandra De Landtsheer by e-mail: [sandra.delandtsheer@vantage-emea.com](mailto:sandra.delandtsheer@vantage-emea.com)

**For further information on Vantage training in the UK contact: [UK-Training@legrand.co.uk](mailto:UK-Training@legrand.co.uk) or other countries contact: [contact.vantage@vantage-emea.com](mailto:contact.vantage@vantage-emea.com)**

### SHOWROOM

Open workdays by appointment.  
Closed Sundays and on public holidays.

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### IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Skygate
- EQ41
- Vantage/NUVO

## LET US KNOW

### DEAR READER,

You have just received the latest issue (no. 31) of Vantage Home Automation News, where we present the latest news on home and building automation.

As before you also have the option of reading our home automation magazine online by visiting us at [www.vantagecontrols.com/emea](http://www.vantagecontrols.com/emea). That means you can read it anywhere and anytime you wish - on your own computer, on your smartphone or on your tablet.

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