



# Intelligent Home

Photo: Gorenje

We all love comfort, and when it comes to our homes, the latest in electrical appliances can be of great help. Take a look around, you may well have at least one product which is the fruit of Slovenian technology and know-how, and if it is made by Gorenje, Bosch, Siemens or Panasonic, this is more than likely.

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Photo: Riko

## Smart Products for Intelligent Homes

Although you might well think that you don't yet have a quality-of-life enhancing Slovenian product, it is likely that you are in possession of one but are unaware of it, because it is a world-renowned brand or a key component of another product. Indeed, you probably don't know what extraordinary things are developed and manufactured in Slovenia.

### Eminent Slovenian Houses in the USA

A new line of P.A.T.H. prefab houses by Starck with Riko, the five-star Kempinski Hotel in the centre of Minsk, and the Sveta Petka hydro-power plant in Skopje are just some of the projects bearing the Riko signature. This engineering company is today recognised internationally across such sectors as industry, energy, ecology, logistics systems and construction, and has formed partnerships with a number of major players in the automotive industry across the former Soviet Union, including Avtovaz, Avtodizel, Maz and MZTK.

In the sphere of sustainable construction, Riko has joined its own know-how and experience in the provision of new concepts in living space with an icon of industrial design Philippe Starck. Together,

Riko and Starck have developed P.A.T.H., a new line of designer prefab houses which is gaining visibility globally. A P.A.T.H. house incorporates energy efficient eco-technology, such as photovoltaic solar panels and wind turbines; thanks to paramount engineering solutions and state-of-the-art prefabrication, such turn-key houses can be delivered to their new owner in just 6 months.

The international design magazine *Architectural Digest*, one of the best known architectural media authorities, acknowledged the P.A.T.H. house as an eminent and comprehensive living space solution, ranking it among the 13 most innovative examples of prefabricated architecture, standing beside such legends as Le Corbusier, Charles and Ray Eames and Shigeru Ban. The P.A.T.H. brand premiered in 2014 as a prototype show-house located near Paris. The construction of the first such Riko house in the USA commenced in June 2016 in New York, and it has a floor area of 750 square metres.

### Sustainable Solutions for Buildings

Airbus, Heathrow Airport, Nestle, Philips, DHL, Porsche, McLaren, IKEA, Prologis, Mercedes Benz, Coca Cola ... all of these companies use products manufactured by Trimo, a company producing façade systems and roofs in the context of the development of upmarket sustainable solutions for building envelopes. Distinguished by their architectural features and design, as well as energy efficiency and

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living-space comfort, the development of fire safety products and systems are also a common thread in Trimo's products. The company's leading trademarks include Trimoterm fire-proof façade systems and roof panels, together with upmarket façade solutions under the Qbiss brand.

### **Bosch and Siemens**

#### **Kitchen Appliances from a Small Alpine Town**

Last year, BSH Hišni Aparati, based in the town of Nazarje in northern Slovenia, manufactured seven million household appliances under a number of trademarks including Bosch, Siemens, Gaggenau, Ufesa, Zelmer, Profilo and Neff. The company is specialised in the production of kitchen appliances for the preparation of food and drink; best known of these are Bosch's MUM 4 and 5 universal food mixers, together with a variety of hand blenders and mixers, fully automatic coffee makers and Tassimo hot drinks machines.

Manufacturing more than one-third of all the company's small household appliances, Nazarje is one of the principal plants of the entire BSH Group and is consequently the R&D competence centre for the Group's kitchen appliance division.



Photo: BSH Hišni Aparati

### A Smart Refrigerator Reducing Food Waste

Slovenian household appliances manufacturer Gorenje is currently developing a new generation of refrigerators that will, through temperature sensors at several places within the fridge, provide optimal temperature control. By detecting the emission of microbiological gases, as well as through a colour indication on food containers, the user will be warned to consume the product as soon as possible. Through this innovation, Gorenje intends to reduce food waste.

The Velenje-based company has also developed new induction hobs that provide optimal temperature settings which facilitate rapid heating but prevent food from boiling over or being burnt. Gorenje also introduced a range of connected smart appliances under its premium Asko brand at this September's IFA fair in Berlin. Gorenje will build

on this important technological leap forward, and anticipates that within a decade all their household appliances will be connected into smart home solutions.

The company follows current trends in household appliances, and often – in particular when it comes to design – they turn out to be trend-setters. The Gorenje compact steam oven, with its TFT display and touch control, won this year's Red Dot Award. Their latest accomplishments include SmartFlex, a new generation of Gorenje dishwashers, as well as a special series of Retro line refrigerators designed in collaboration with Volkswagen... The Gorenje Group has two global brands – Gorenje and its premium Asko range – together with six marks of regional significance, namely the premium Atag and Pelgrim brands, together with Mora, Etna, Upo and Körting.

### To the Next Generation with Panasonic

In 2013, Gorenje concluded a strategic partnership with Panasonic, which thence became a minor shareholder of the Velenje-based company, and last year collaboration between these two companies expanded into new areas of business. The Japanese contribute know-how in such areas as electronics and digitization to these joint projects, and a number of their solutions are indeed a step ahead of the field. As to Gorenje – a company with its own production facilities in Europe, as well as competence centres in Sweden, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovenia – it is extremely familiar with European markets as well as consumer and design trends.

The development team, comprised of 70 experts from Gorenje and Panasonic, have created a common platform for the next generation of washing machines. The fruit of their collaboration are the award-winning environment-friendly AutoCare washing machines, which have lower water consumption and consequently a reduced carbon footprint. Moreover, in the context of cost-optimisation, the functionality and durability of all components of this much acclaimed range have been improved.

Within a decade all of Gorenje's household appliances will be connected into smart home solutions.



### 60% of Vacuum Motors European Market

Holding fifteen percent of the global market, and sixty percent of the European one, Domel is a major manufacturer of vacuum motors, which account for fifty percent of its sales revenues. Providing motors for power tools, domestic and garden appliances, the automotive sector and a variety of industrial applications, Domel invests a lot into research and development; it also works with such prestigious manufacturers as Philips, Electrolux, Kärcher, Stihl, Continental and Hella. Domel's biggest market is Germany, followed by Sweden, Poland and the Netherlands. The company has penetrated the Japanese market, and is now looking to make inroads into India and the USA, where they are also generating sales revenues.

Currently Domel's R&D division is engaged in more than ten development and investment projects.



Photo: Domel