Germany's mechanical engineers continue to enjoy unrivaled appeal around the world. In 2019, the industry broke again its own records with turnover of more than €230 billion. Industrie 4.0 as a whole is promising additional economic gains. As value creation is becoming more reliant on digital data, product pirates and counterfeiters are following suit. They will not be satisfied with simply copying the nuts and bolts or discrete circuitry. Instead, they are setting their sights on the digital blueprints, the software inside the machines, and the main databases storing the valuable information. The world's leaders in many disciplines and technologies are based in Germany – and represent only too tempting prey for counterfeiters!