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OSNABRÜCK

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## International hit against ATM Attackers – searches and arrests in different EU countries-

**German and Dutch investigators again successful – 13 perpetrators arrested – 12 ATM Attacks cleared up – 28 searches carried out – total damage of property and loot of several million euros – rental car companies in focus**

Since a long time judicial and police authorities throughout Germany have been dealing with ATM Attacks. Now a German operation with the support from Dutch law enforcement authorities, coordinated by the CID Osnabrück and the Public Prosecutor's Office Osnabrück has dismantled a large criminal group. In the early morning hours of the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 a concentrated police action with more than 100 police officers involved took place in Germany (North Rhine Westphalia) and the Netherlands. The police forces searched 28 different private and business spots (i.e. rental car companies). Additional 12 house searches were already carried out days before. The police forces arrested 13 male perpetrators in connection/context with this operation. One arrest was executed yesterday in the Netherlands, in the near of the city Helmond. All other arrest were executed days or weeks before.

The Police and PPO Osnabrück carried out this large European operation in cooperation with the PPO Mainz, the LKA Rhineland-Palatinate, the General PPO Frankfurt, the LKA Hesse + Police Department Mittelhessen and the PPO and Politie Amsterdam with the support of the German BKA and Europol.

According to the status, the seventeen men from the Netherlands -in different compositions- are said to have blown up 12 ATMs in Germany. In detail six in Rhineland-Palatinate, three in North Rhine-Westphalia, two in Lower Saxony and one in Hesse. There damage to property and buildings to the loot amounts 4 million euros.

The investigators managed to bring together findings from the different German federal states and the Netherlands and completed the investigative work together within half a year. Worth mentioning is the excellent and intensive cooperation between the German federal states –on police and judicial level- and in particular the close and trustful cooperation with the Dutch authorities, through which this major German-Dutch strike against the ATM Attackers scene was only possible. The German BKA and Europol delivered additional support.

This operation was highly supported through a large, intensive and central BKA analysis of ATM Attacks in Germany during the years 2021 and 2022. In the beginning of January 2022, police and judicial authorities in the four involved German Federal States started their investigations. Europol supported this large and intensive operation with dedicated, transnational and unique analytical and technical support. The perpetrators involved in this operation used mainly solid explosives. The BKA confirmed that perpetrators for such criminal offences mainly used solid explosives in the past month. These offences are getting more and more dangerous for civilians and police forces. An addi-

tional danger stated the risky escape behavior of the perpetrators. In some cases, the perpetrators leave the crime scenes with high-motorized vehicles with a maximum speed of 250 km/h.

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