

Great success with 1st North American EtherCAT Plug Fest

The first North American EtherCAT Plug Fest was well attended with over 20 people from 11 ETG member companies. At this Plug Fest four new master implementations were tested with the slave device variety of 8 different vendors. The main goal of this event, which was hosted by National Instruments in Austin, Texas, was to check interoperability of EtherCAT implementations.

Likewise Dr. James Truchard, President, CEO and cofounder of National Instruments, underlined in his opening speech the need of conformance and interoperability for the success of a communication technology.

All slave devices are operated individually and in groups with all present EtherCAT masters. In addition, the devices have been checked with the official EtherCAT Conformance Test Tool. With Plug Fests held in North America, Asia and Europe, the ETG improves the worldwide support and the interoperability of EtherCAT devices. Due to the need of upcoming EtherCAT implementations and enhancement of existing devices, the date for the 2nd NA Plug Fest will be announced soon.

EtherCAT sets new standards for real-time performance and topology flexibility, while meeting or undercutting traditional fieldbus cost levels. EtherCAT features include high precision device synchronization, cable redundancy options, and a functional safety protocol (SIL3). EtherCAT is an international standard (IEC, ISO and SEMI).

The **EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG)** is an organization in which key user companies from various industries and leading automation suppliers join forces to support, promote and advance EtherCAT technology. With over 1100 members from 47 countries, the EtherCAT Technology Group has become the largest organization

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Press Release

ETG062009

September 29th, 2009 | Page 2 of 3

in the world that is exclusively focused on Industrial Ethernet technologies. Founded in November 2003, it is also currently the fastest growing fieldbus organization.

➔ For further information please also see www.ethercat.org

Press pictures



Picture caption:

Dr. James Truchard, President, CEO and cofounder of National Instruments, underlined in his opening speech for the 1st North American EtherCAT plug fest the need of conformance and interoperability for the success of a communication technology.

Press Release

ETG062009

September 29th, 2009 | Page 3 of 3



Picture caption:

Interoperability tests at the 1st North American EtherCAT plug fest hosted by National Instruments in Austin, Texas