Press Release

EtherCAT Technology Group

EtherCAT becomes IEC specification

At the end of February, EtherCAT became an official IEC specification (PAS, Publicly Available Specification) with 96% of the votes from IEC member states. In future, the EtherCAT specification will therefore also be available via the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission). Via the EtherCAT website members of the EtherCAT Technology Group have access to the specification and other helpful documents relating to EtherCAT.

Beyond this highly significant standardisation step, EtherCAT will also be introduced in other international standards. For example, EtherCAT is currently being introduced in the IEC 61784-2 standard (Digital data communications for measurement and control - Part 2: Additional profiles for ISO/IEC 8802-3 based communication networks in real-time applications), which is being developed with involvement by ETG experts. EtherCAT technology will also be integrated in the next version of the international fieldbus standard, IEC 61158. ISO (International Standardisation Organisation) includes EtherCAT in the ISO 15745 standard - voting on this is currently under way.

The close co-operation of the EtherCAT Technology Group with international standardisation committees is thus bearing fruit: In August 2004 the IEC recognised the ETG as an official standardisation partner with the same status as PNO or ODVA, for example.

ETG is now the largest organisation for Industrial Ethernet in the world

The popularity of the EtherCAT Technology Group is unabated. With more than 170 members the ETG is now the largest organisation for Industrial Ethernet in the world. Martin Rostan, Beckhoff product manager and Executive Director of ETG, said: "We are pleased that the EtherCAT Technology Group is now the largest Industrial Ethernet organisation in the world. The strong growth of the ETG reflects the tremendous interest in EtherCAT technology. Manufacturers and users recognise the benefits offered by EtherCAT: future-proof performance, flexible network topology, simple configuration, and low costs. Nevertheless, while the number of members is an important criterion for the success of a technology

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organisation, it is not the crucial one. During the current phase, acceptance of the technology resulting in concrete product developments is even more important. Here too, the ETG and Beckhoff are very successful: About 80 implementation kits (master and slave) have already been sold, and more than 30 companies have already presented or announced products."

Hanover Fair 2005: ETG presents products and solutions

The 2004 SPS/IPC/DRIVES fair in Nuremberg/Germany was the first event where ETG had its own stand, presenting EtherCAT products from various manufacturers and a concrete EtherCAT application. Numerous EtherCAT implementations involve both the master side and the slave side.

At the Factory Automation section of the Hannover Fair ETG will once again be present with its own 80 sqm stand. 30 ETG member companies will present EtherCAT products and complete system solutions covering drive technology, sensors, I/O systems, gateways, interfaces, tools etc.

➔ ETG stand at the Hanover Fair: **Hall 9, Stand F13**

For further information see: **www.ethercat.org**

Please send readers' questions to:
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