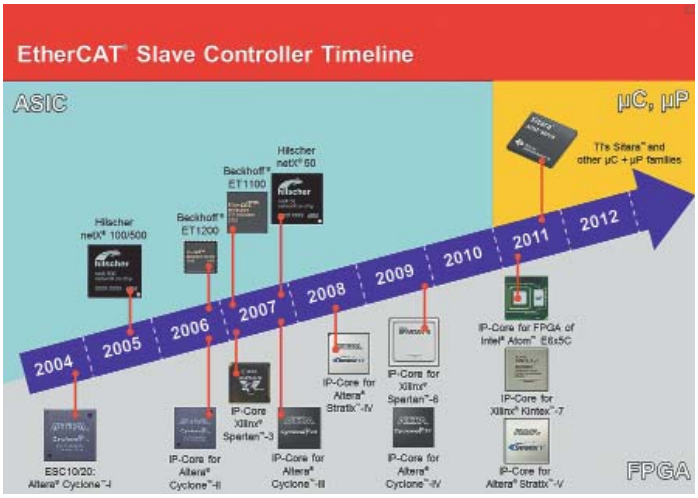
EtherCAT® Technology Group

EtherCAT in standard microprocessors from Texas Instruments

Texas Instruments (TI) announced at Hannover Messe 2011 that they would integrate EtherCAT slave controllers into several standard microprocessor and microcontroller product lines. Matthias Poppel, Director of Embedded Processing at TI, said at a press conference held at the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) booth: "The EtherCAT protocol set new standards for real-time performance and flexibility – decisive properties for the Embedded ARM chips from TI for the industrial market. As a leading communication protocol, the increasing popularity of EtherCAT in drive and I/O applications is additionally based on the robustness and simplicity of the technology." The first products from TI with an integrated EtherCAT interface are due to become available by the end of the year. "For the first time ever, a large chip manufacturer is integrating a dedicated real-time Ethernet interface in a standard microcontroller series – and has selected EtherCAT for this," stresses Martin Rostan, Executive Director of the ETG. "EtherCAT is thus becoming a mainstream technology even beyond the world of automation. This is a very important milestone in the spread of EtherCAT and will open up completely new markets for the technology. I am sure that this will help EtherCAT achieve a strong position in various Embedded applications and, naturally, to further accelerate its acceptance in the automation market!"

Matthias Poppel, Director for Embedded Processing at Texas Instruments, announces EtherCAT interfaces on TI controllers.



EtherCAT goes mainstream: FPGA and ASIC implementations supplemented by standard microprocessors

The ETG seminars in Great Britain (above) and Switzerland (below)

Seminar series in Great Britain and Switzerland

The ETG Industrial Ethernet seminar series have been successfully continued in Great Britain and Switzerland. The events purposefully address fieldbus users. Apart from the actual presentation of the technology, the all-day seminars consisted, above all of application-related presentations, for example on migration from traditional fieldbuses to EtherCAT, or on specific competitive advantages for machine manufacturers that are possible thanks to the EtherCAT technology.

Automation World in Korea

The first trade fair booth of the ETG in Korea at the Automation World in Seoul was organized by the Korean ETG office under the direction of Key Yoo. In addition to a large number of EtherCAT applications, the booth also exhibited a selection of EtherCAT products, including some from Korean manufacturers.

ETG booth at the Embedded World

EtherCAT does not need switches, the master is implemented in software on standard Ethernet ports and inexpensive chips are available for slave devices. EtherCAT is thus ideally suited for internal (Embedded) applications in devices where CAN or serial interfaces reach the limits of their performance. For this reason the ETG exhibited at the Embedded World in Nuremberg, Germany – and met with great interest there: besides many new customers, several developers from ETG members also visited the booth and took the opportunity to "talk shop" with the EtherCAT experts.

SIAF in Guangzhou

ETG in China

Demand for EtherCAT is also growing strongly in China. Beryl Fan, Manager of the ETG office in Beijing, says: "We are seeing an increased interest and ever increasing acceptance of the EtherCAT technology and its advantages on the part of visitors." The ETG booths at the SIAF show in Guangzhou and at the FA/PA show in Beijing were well attended.

FA/PA in Beijing

ETG at Hannover Messe

With 65 joint exhibitors and over 280 EtherCAT products at the ETG booth alone, the association once again sent a clear message at Hannover Messe: no other fieldbus organization can exhibit anywhere near as many devices. One of the highlights of the exhibition booth was the world record multi-vendor drive demo: 35 drives from 24 manufacturers separately and synchronously driven on just one EtherCAT bus system.