

EtherCAT Technology Group Now World's Largest Fieldbus Organization

The EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) is pleased to announce that it has become the world's largest fieldbus organization. The ETG has been the largest Industrial Ethernet organization for some time, and now with the group attracting over 1500 member companies from 52 countries, it can claim the title of world's largest fieldbus organization of any kind. However, these numbers will continue to rise as ETG growth continues at an unabated pace.

In Europe and North America the growth remains robust, but it has become even stronger in Asia: in this region it has reached 400 member companies. The worldwide acceptance, openness and success of the technology is not only underlined by the membership figures, but in particular by the exceptional variety of devices with EtherCAT interfaces from numerous vendors. At the EtherCAT Technology Group booth at the SPS/IPC/Drives 2010 show in Nuremberg, Germany, 64 co-exhibitors show over 260 different EtherCAT devices.

One of the eye-catchers at the booth is a world record in itself: the organization's multivendor drive demo was further enhanced and now shows 35 different axes of motion from 22 vendors – operating synchronously on a single EtherCAT network.

Also unique is the master variety display: EtherCAT controls devices from 25 different vendors are shown in function demos. Meanwhile the ETG counts over 100 different vendors with EtherCAT master implementations and over 80 vendors that support EtherCAT in their drive portfolio.

“There is no question today that EtherCAT is strongly accepted worldwide. Many of the world's most influential vendors support EtherCAT or are in the process of implementing it. The vendors who have yet to introduce an EtherCAT device don't discuss the issue in terms of 'if' any more, but in terms of 'when?' Judging by the strong

EtherCAT Technology Group
Martin Rostan
Ostendstraße 196
90482 Nürnberg
Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 20
Fax: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 29
m.rostan@ethercat.org
www.ethercat.org

Press Contact
Andrea Bock

Phone: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 225
Fax: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 29
press@ethercat.org
www.ethercat.org/press/

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and growing demand for EtherCAT-based technology, the world's end users are making sure that the answer is 'soon!'" says Martin Rostan, Executive Director of the EtherCAT Technology Group.

The entire ETG company member roster can be viewed here:
www.ethercat.org/members

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 protocol **Safety-over-EtherCAT (FSoE)** was specified for the transmission of safety relevant data. It is standardized in IEC 61784-3 Ed.2 and is used to send input information of safety sensors (such as safety light curtains or emergency stop buttons) to a safety logic controller. Based on these inputs, this controller computes the commands for the safe outputs (such as contactors or safety relevant drives) and thus controls the safety functionality of the machine.

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 1500 members from 52 countries, the EtherCAT Technology Group has become the largest organization 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