

New Beckhoff products attracted a lot of attention

## “Automation in Motion” seminar in Finland



→ Beckhoff's Finnish subsidiary, Beckhoff Automation Oy, held its third “Automation in Motion” seminar for its customers in late January. As in past years, the event brought together a large number of industry professionals.

The purpose of the “Automation in Motion” seminar is to bring customers information about new Beckhoff products and to provide a forum for industry professionals. Beckhoff Finland's Managing Director Mikko Uuskoski opened the seminar with an overview of the company's operations in Finland. Technical Support Manager Antti Airtto and Key Account Manager Matti Korhonen introduced the Beckhoff products. Over the course of the day, some Beckhoff Automation Oy customers reported on projects they have implemented using Beckhoff products.

This year the very popular event brought in more than 80 participants from the process, sawmill, electronics and plastics industries as well as representatives from production automation and machine engineering companies. Additionally, participants from Finnish colleges and universities were also present.

**Engineering Manager, R&D,  
Heikki Saariluoma, Pivatic Oy:  
“Beckhoff's fieldbus products  
are market forerunners.”**

Pivatic Oy designs, manufactures and markets sheet machining solutions for industries needing sheet metal. In 2001 the company's net sales totaled 15 million euros, and it had 70 employees. The company's 15-person Designing department is headed by Engineering Manager, R&D, Heikki Saariluoma. He points out that over 90 percent of Pivatic's production is exported, and the company has representatives in 32 countries. “With Flexible Fabricating Systems (FFS) we can produce different kinds of product family components to exact specifications and flexibly. A variety of special tasks or robots for handling finished product pieces can also be integrated into the Pivatic lines.”

Pivatic Oy's automation planning uses Beckhoff's fieldbus technology. According to Saariluoma, it en-

ables modular designs and shortened throughput times. “We chose the Beckhoff products because they are forerunners in fieldbus technology. The cost of the solution was manageable and the components used are durable.”

Heikki Saariluoma believes that PC-based and open controls will become more common and that they will be utilized also in bigger systems than those of today. At the Beckhoff “Automation in Motion” seminar he found the German customer cases of particular interest as well as the embedded control system CX1000.



### Project Engineer

**Jani Gröndahl, Swisslog Oy:**

**"The advantage of the Beckhoff's system is flexibility."**

Swisslog Oy in Ulvila, Finland, is Swisslog's competence center in robotics and has over 200 employees. The company provides integrated robotic and picking solutions for manufacturing, warehouse and distribution applications. According to Project Engineer Jani Gröndahl, Swisslog robots are used for various

handling tasks in a number of industries and the customers are all over the world. "The focus is in automating manufacturing processes in the TV tube, glass and automotive industries as well as in developing high-tech handling solutions for distribution of food and beverages. There are, however, ideal applications for Swisslog robots in other industries as well, such as the paper and printing and metal industries." Swisslog Oy uses the Beckhoff Bus Terminals as well as digital I/O and other modules. "It is important to us

that the Beckhoff system does not depend on the fieldbus used. It is also good that same components can be used in the inputs and outputs connected to the bus, and they can be standardized regardless of the bus that is used. Moreover, the modules are relatively small and the system is easy to expand," notes Gröndahl.

Jani Gröndahl believes that use of the PC-based control and fieldbus technology will become more common in the future. "In bigger systems the traditional wiring of inputs and outputs from sensors will likely be completely eliminated, and all control data from the sensors will be transferred to system control using fieldbus technology." At the Beckhoff "Automation in Motion" seminar he was interested in practical examples of Beckhoff components in use in Finland and abroad.



**Sales Manager Osmo Vainio, ABB Oy:**

**"Solutions that work for us and good technical support"**

ABB is the leading power and automation technology company employing 150,000 people in more than 100 countries. ABB in Finland has about 10,000 employees in over 50 municipalities, and the company's net sales total more than 1.8 billion euros. ABB Oy's cooperation with some of its utility and industry customers has lasted more than a century.

Sales Manager Osmo Vainio is responsible for ABB Oy's food industry automation project sales. He says that the company uses the Beckhoff Industrial PC solutions in its products. "Beckhoff Automation Oy has provided us solutions that work for our deliveries as well as good technical support."

Osmo Vainio notes that the PC-based control is a growth area in automation, but in ABB Oy's business area in heavy industry the advancement of the technology is likely much slower than in the piece goods industry. "The demand for fieldbus technology has continuously increased, and it is only now that it seems to be making the long-awaited breakthrough." At the Beckhoff "Automation in Motion" seminar Vainio was especially interested in new, AS-i bus-based products and new Industrial PC solutions.

tures business area, which currently employs around 330 people. According to Markku Levanen, Manager, Process Automation, Metso Panelboard's lines feature the complete machinery and process, from wood handling to packing line, including energy plants, continuous presses and process automation.

Markku Levanen says that Metso Panelboard currently uses the Beckhoff Industrial PC technology and I/O systems in its lines. "The technical characteristics of Beckhoff's products are well suited for our lines. Also the price/quality ratio is right," Levanen says.

Levanen believes that PC-based control will at an ever-increasing pace replace the majority of the traditional logistic controls. Fieldbus technology has already totally replaced the directly wired I/Os in Metso Panelboard's products. At the Beckhoff "Automation in Motion" seminar Levanen was particularly interested in the Beckhoff new real-time Ethernet system.

**Markku Levanen, Manager,  
Process Automation, Metso Panelboard:  
"Technical solutions are well  
suited for our products"**

Metso Panelboard is one of the leading suppliers of complete lines, single machines and after-market services for Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF), particleboard and Oriented Strand Board (OSB) industries. The company is part of Metso Corporation's Metso Ven-

→ [www.pivatic.com](http://www.pivatic.com)

→ [www.abb.fi](http://www.abb.fi)

→ [www.metso.com](http://www.metso.com)

→ [www.swisslog.fi](http://www.swisslog.fi)