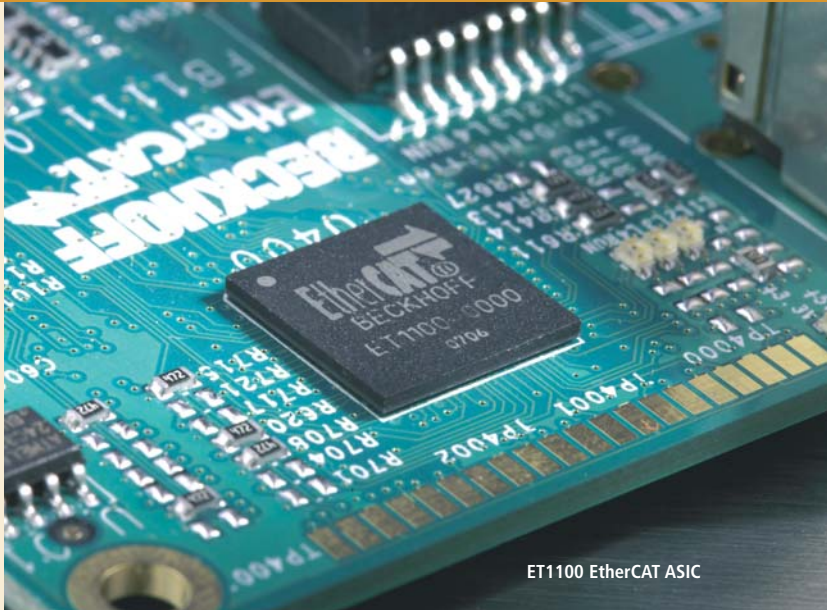


ETG News



ET1100 EtherCAT ASIC

EtherCAT ASICs available

The test phase for the ET1100 EtherCAT ASICs from Beckhoff has been completed successfully. The chip – also known as “the big ASIC” – is now available, and the Beckhoff EtherCAT slave controller family is complete.

Availability of the ET1100 represents a milestone in the history of EtherCAT: While many device manufacturers have been using the FPGA implementation successfully since 2004, others have been waiting for the ASICs, because they require significantly less space and clearly mark the end of the technology development phase. EtherCAT now offers the stability and investment security that other Industrial Ethernet technologies are still lacking.

The ET1100 ASIC housing (BGA128) only measures 10 x 10 mm. The chip can support up to four EtherCAT ports. The 8 kB internal memory (DPRAM) for access to process and parameter data is optionally addressed via parallel or serial data bus. Alternatively, the ASIC can

also be used without μ Controller, in which case up to 32 digital signals are connected directly.

The ET1200 ASIC, the small brother of the ET1100, has already been available since November 2006. With its QFN48 housing (7 x 7 mm) the chip is even more compact. The device offers 16 digital I/O interfaces and distributed clock hardware for high-precision synchronization. The 1 kB internal DPRAM is addressed via a fast serial interface (10 Mbit). The “small ASIC” offers two EtherCAT ports, one of which can be used as MII for connecting a standard PHY. The other port is used for LVDS, which makes the ET1200 the right choice for modular devices using LVDS as internal bus physics.

ETG Board of Directors re-elected

The ETG Board of Directors was unanimously re-elected at the ETG AGM during the SPS/IPC/DRIVES fair in Nuremberg, Germany. The members of the Board of Directors are:

Dr. Peter Heidrich, Development Manager at Baumüller; Erich Hutflesz, Director for Control Technology at Schuler SMG, and Martin Rostan, ETG Executive Director and Head of Technology Marketing at Beckhoff. The AGM was attended by representatives of ETG members from Europe, North America and Asia.

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