



## ETG board of directors confirmed in office

The meeting of members of the EtherCAT Technology Group has unanimously confirmed the board of directors in office. With Dr. Peter Heidrich (Baumüller), Erich Hutflesz (Schuler SMG) and Martin Rostan (Beckhoff), both suppliers of EtherCAT devices and systems and their users are represented in the board of directors, which has been elected for a further two years.



ETG board of directors (from left):  
Dr. Peter Heidrich (Baumüller), Erich Hutflesz (Schuler SMG)  
and Martin Rostan (Beckhoff)

The new Conformance Test Policy was also passed unanimously. This settles the testing and certification process within the EtherCAT Technology Group. Manufacturers of EtherCAT devices are obliged to conform to the protocol standards in order to guarantee interoperability of the devices. Using the Conformance Test Tool, the device manufacturers initially check conformity to the specification in their own development laboratory. Experience with other fieldbus standards shows that every supplier must have such a tool, complete with updates, in his own development department: this is the only way to ensure that each future firmware change is checked against the then current test as part of the internal approval process. In addition to the in-house test, the ETG of-

fers extended tests at the official test center. This first of these has been in operation since autumn 2008 in Nuremberg, Germany, another one is in preparation in Japan and more will follow. Entitlement to a certificate of conformity issued by the ETG is only gained after the test at the official test center has been passed. The ETG invites end users to take the certificates into account when selecting EtherCAT products.

Last year, the EtherCAT Technology Group gained 252 new members; there are now over 900 from 45 countries. The association continues to gain one new member per working day on average and growth continues unchecked. Most members are from Germany, followed by the USA and Japan.



## Safety over EtherCAT wins Safety Award

The Safety over EtherCAT technology has won one of the three GIT Safety Awards 2009 in the category Safe Automation. Safety over EtherCAT was nominated by a jury of safety experts from the TÜV, BGIA, VDMA and ZVEI; the technology was chosen by the readers of the magazines 'Sicherheit + Management' and 'MessTec & Automation'. Safety over EtherCAT was the only victorious safety technology; all other award winners were products. Martin Rostan, Executive Director of the ETG, received the award during a ceremony from GIT editor Dr. Volker Oestreich, who, as a former director of the PNO, has a great interest in bus technologies.