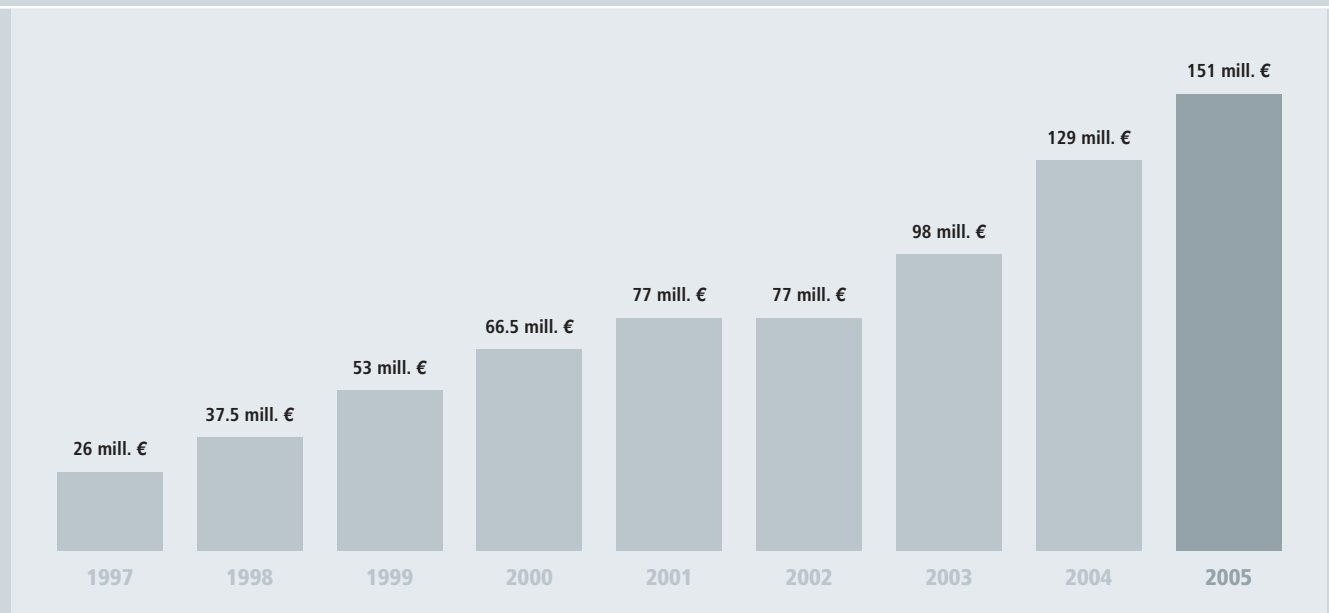


Beckhoff increases turnover: Worldwide success with PC Control and distributed I/O

Beckhoff Automation, with the headquarters in Verl, Germany, concluded the 2005 financial year with an increase in turnover of 17%. During 2005, worldwide turnover was 151 million euros. The basis for the continuing success is constant development and introduction of new product ranges and basic technologies, and consistent expansion of our international distribution network.



Sales increased both the domestic market and in export, with exports making up 41% of the total turnover in 2005. Overall, Beckhoff "New Automation Technology" is now represented in more than 60 countries worldwide through 16 subsidiaries, agencies or distribution partners. Managing Director Hans Beckhoff is optimistic about the future: "With annual growth rates of 17% in 2005, 31% in 2004 and 27% in 2003, our company continued to develop very positively. The positive development of previous years continued during the first quarter of 2006, based on worldwide growth in the automation market, especially above-average development in our specialist areas of PC Control, distributed I/O and software PLC/NC. With the market introduction of EtherCAT Terminals, the TwinSAFE safety solution, our new AX5000 drive range and our new com-

pact IPCs, during 2006 we will set several performance and pricing standards that should form the basis for further healthy growth over the coming years."

In parallel with the expansion of our product ranges, we will continue to develop our national and international sales network. During 2006 we will strengthen our local presence by establishing subsidiaries in Spain, Belgium, Brazil, South Africa, and Australia. National and international locations will be expanded, as well as the worldwide distributor network. The number of Beckhoff Automation employees has also grown: At the end of 2005, Beckhoff had 661 staff worldwide, an increase of 20% compared with the previous year. Similar growth is expected for 2006.