



Beckhoff at the Ligna⁺ in Hanover, Germany

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"The world of wood" was the new lead theme for the 11th Ligna⁺ trade fair, which ran in Hanover, Germany, from 14 to 18 May 2007. In hall 19, Beckhoff presented its open automation solutions for the wood industry.

The range of furniture available in the market today is more diverse than ever. The furniture industry caters for all conceivable requirements and preferences with regard to style and design, comfort, functionality and price. This market leaves nothing to be desired and responds to trends and fashions in a target group-specific manner. The fast pace of changing living styles and not least the competitive environment oblige furniture manufacturers to offer highly flexible product ranges. Individual production has thus become a common requirement for the furniture industry and its suppliers – naturally with maximum throughput.

Meeting these requirements represents a challenge for the machine construction and system engineering sector, because furniture manufacturers keep asking for more powerful, more flexible and more automated systems that enable them to supply top-quality products at prices in line

with market requirements. The furniture production process involves a wide range of machines with different functions and stringent requirements in terms of performance and flexibility. Data management is an increasingly important factor in industrial manufacturing, both vertically (from order processing to the machine) and horizontally (between the individual machines in a production line). Machine builders have to find the right balance between top performance, low costs, optimum integration into the respective production structure and machine type, and ease of use.

There is basically only one platform that can meet all these requirements, i.e. PC-based control, which combines PLC, NC/CNC, line and camming functionality in a single hardware or maps it through software modules. The PC can easily handle tracking of parts, user interfaces, CAD/CAM user interfaces, drill optimization, configuration tools, production data collection and local databases. Porting all functions to PC hardware also simplifies data transfer – generally via Ethernet – to the production databases and ERP systems.