

“Global Control”



Everyone is talking about global markets: Opportunities and risks are discussed; challenges and opportunities are weighed up. With a good portion of common sense, it becomes clear that far-off markets have their peculiarities, but they also offer opportunities for growth and integration as sales markets.

Machine producers and manufacturing plants follow their customers all over the world to their locations and sales markets. As a result, there is growing demand for a uniform, worldwide usable, understandable, easy-to-maintain and accepted automation technology for machines and production plants: a “Global Control” – an automation platform for the world.

Such a technology gives operators of machines and production plants the flexibility to install freely at the necessary locations all over the world. Investments in machine equipment, spare parts and the training of operators and maintenance personnel are utilized more efficiently, they do not need to be repeated for several platforms and they remain permanently usable worldwide.

A uniform “Global Control” also makes it possible for machine and product manufacturers to produce their respective product efficiently and at even lower cost. Cost drivers can be eliminated: The parallel integration of different automation platforms requires time and creates high engineering costs with no added value. The resources wasted in this process can be better used for the rapid innovation of functions: time to market for innovations wins in the competition for customers.

Taking the current technological lead of open automation technology in the worldwide competition of automation systems into account, the opinion is justified that the use of globally widespread standards from the computer industry – used and integrated in the correct way – has the potential to become such a “Global Control”. Above all, it will find the acceptance that proprietary total solutions are lacking – must be lacking

– in one region of the globe or another. The world understands “the PC” and Windows in a way that integrates, creates the necessary trust and builds bridges, regardless of the region or culture in which one moves: People everywhere know and use the personal computer like a global culture, and that is a good platform for a “Global Control”.

The widely ramified standards in automation technology merge ideally in an open manner on such a global platform – the compatible Industrial PC or its scalable version as embedded controller. There may be a preference here and there for one programming language or another (whereby IEC 61131-3 is the global standard for machine programming) or an I/O network (it will be Ethernet, reduction to the market-relevant systems is in full swing here, too), but the world meets on the PC. In a “Global Control” all insufficiently interoperable standards from the various automation market segments can coexist and exchange data. The ideal “Global Control” is more than just a superficial call for the standards of the global PC market; it must be supplemented by the integration of the most important standards from the world of automation in order to provide every user in the automation world with a familiar access point to their own version of “Global Control”. The automation solution for a “Global Control” therefore offers uniform configuration, communication, programming tools and scalable hardware, and beyond that it must support the diverse market-relevant automation standards for different applications and regions of the world, for industrial networks, communication protocols, programming languages and operating system integration. With such a platform the focused, continual further development and implementation of know-how worldwide will succeed for subsequent application: in this way the world of automation technology will meet at the “Global Control”

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