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Florian Häfele presents the first North American Certificate of Conformance to Stan Breitlow of Watlow Electric Manufacturing Company at a meeting of the ETG Semiconductor Technical Working Group.

ETG presents first North American certificate of conformance

A few months after the accreditation of the EtherCAT Test Center in North America, the Watlow Electric Manufacturing Company received the first official Certificate of Conformance for its successfully tested RMZ Multi-Loop Temperature Controller. The official presentation of the certificate took place in May during the sixth meeting of the ETG's Semiconductor Technical Working Group at Lam Research in Fremont, California. „The event during which the presentation took place highlights the importance of the new EtherCAT Test Center North America for the semiconductor industry. It also demonstrated that we made the right choice to open a North American test lab,“ explained Florian Häfele, who attended on behalf of the ETG.

The test lab, which is located in Savage, Minnesota, addresses the rising demand for official tests of EtherCAT devices in North America. The new location is particularly useful for tests of semiconductor-specific EtherCAT devices, as indicated by the test of Watlow's temperature controller. Since North America is home to many key players in the semiconductor industry, the ETG expects to see growing demand for conformity tests from this industry. In addition to the test center in Savage, makers of EtherCAT devices can also have the conformity of their products tested at other ETCs, located in Germany, Japan, and China.

ETG members gather in Japan and South Korea for 2013 year in review

Roughly 200 people attended the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) member meetings in Japan and South Korea to learn more about the results of the various ETG Working Groups and the many marketing activities and events conducted by the organization during the last year.

The meeting had been arranged by the local ETG representative office in South Korea. Many Korean ETG members enriched the event with presentations of various EtherCAT applications. One of them was Jaehwan Park of the Cultural Convergence R&D Group at the Korean Institute of Industrial Technology. Park presented a very demanding safety-oriented application from the field of stage and show technology that enables actors to "fly" across the stage.

In Japan, over 100 members accepted the invitation to the local ETG Member Meeting, treated to presentations by the Japanese ETG representative and the ETG

Regional Committee from Japan. In addition, Kenich Mukai of Applied Materials talked about the reasons why the world's largest maker of semiconductor manufacturing systems decided to select EtherCAT as its official system bus. According to Mukai, the company arrived at the conclusion, through extensive testing and evaluation, that EtherCAT delivers the high level of performance required by the next steps in wafer processing technology. Another highlight was the presentation by Shiny Hirano of the RIKEN Research Institute, who demonstrated the second generation of an EtherCAT-based service robot.

The 10-year anniversary of the ETG fell at the end of last year, impacting ETG meetings in 2014 as members celebrated this significant milestone. In his opening address, ETG Executive Director, Martin Rostan took the opportunity to reflect upon the growing success of EtherCAT and the ETG over the last 10 years.



ETG keeps the Industrial Ethernet revolution going strong with worldwide EtherCAT seminars in 2014

After the success of the EtherCAT Technology Group's (ETG) Industrial Ethernet seminars in recent years, the group is again visiting numerous places around the world in 2014 as part of its roadshow tour. This year started with events in Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand, where over 150 guests accepted ETG invitations. Almost 350 machine manufacturers, OEMs, and system integrators attended roadshow events in Turkey and Italy.

The seminars, which are free of charge, focus exclusively on EtherCAT technology and do not include product presentations from the supporting sponsors. Besides a detailed introduction into the technology, each agenda includes application presentations that inform the attendees about the practical benefits of EtherCAT as well as its advantages over traditional fieldbus systems. At the accompanying sponsor-hosted exhibition, however, participants receive insights into the broad diversity of EtherCAT products and applications from around the world. For the rest of 2014, seminars are scheduled in Spain, Brazil and Korea.



Roughly 200 people accepted the ETG's invitation, attending the ETG Member Meetings in Japan and South Korea.



With 52 participants from 12 different countries, the 2014 edition of the European EtherCAT Plug Fest, hosted at the facilities of Renesas Electronics in Duesseldorf, was a complete success.

Spring 2014 European EtherCAT Plug Fest underscores master device diversity

Although the EtherCAT Plug Fest was held for the 17th time in Europe, it has lost none of its attractiveness for the developers and manufacturers of EtherCAT devices. On the contrary: for this year's Spring European EtherCAT Plug Fest, 52 master and slave device manufacturers from 12 countries got together at Renesas Electronics in Duesseldorf to test the interoperability of their EtherCAT devices.

"The large number of EtherCAT master devices was particularly welcome," said Thomas Rettig, who attended the Plug Fest as the ETG representative. "Over two days, we tested 10 EtherCAT master devices from 10 different makers along with 41 different EtherCAT slave devices – numbers that underscore the long-term success of this event."

EtherCAT Plug Fests, which are also held annually in Asia and North America, give developers and manufacturers of EtherCAT devices the opportunity to test the interoperability of their products under realistic networking conditions before they hit the market. One of the tools being used for this purpose is the official EtherCAT Conformance Test Tool. EtherCAT experts are available to answer the participants' questions and to help avoid potential mistakes during the development phase.