

EtherCAT®

Technology Group

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Industrial Ethernet Seminars 2012

ETG road show in China sets attendance record

The popular EtherCAT road shows take place around the globe: By the end of 2012 the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) will have held Industrial Ethernet seminars on a total of five continents. While numerous stops in Europe, Asia as well as North and South America have been on the road map up to now, further seminars will take place in the final quarter of 2012 in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and South Africa.

Worldwide interest in the Industrial Ethernet seminars continues unabated; this was shown above all by the road show in China last September: with a total of 600 participants, the ETG set a new attendance record. "Interest in the Chinese seminars was overwhelming and is a clear indication of the outstanding potential that EtherCAT has in the Chinese market," explains Beryl Fan, ETG representative in China and manager of the ETG office in Peking. "Chinese engineers are very interested in cutting-edge technologies, especially if they make financial savings possible." Due to that continuing high demand, the ETG plans to hold further seminars in China in the coming year.

The ETG Industrial Ethernet seminar series had its start this year in Brazil: over 250 visitors from device manufacturers, machine builders, system integrators and end users gathered at the one-day events, which were spread over six cities. Given the fact that typically employees in Brazil cannot simply take a day off for a seminar, the number of participants testifies to the importance attached to EtherCAT by the aspiring Brazilian market. "We are delighted at the great interest in the events – in particular since this was the first EtherCAT Seminar series in South America," says a pleased Dr. Guido Beckmann, Chairman of the Technical Committee of the EtherCAT Technology Group. Due to the good response further events are, of course, planned here in the future.

Naturally the Industrial Ethernet seminar series focuses on EtherCAT itself. Starting with a detailed introduction to the technology, the advantages of EtherCAT for the user are shown in particular: costs are reduced while at the same time both the throughput and the efficiency of machines and plants are increased. The program is rounded off by various user presentations, which provide information on the use of EtherCAT in practice as well as on the simple switch from traditional fieldbus systems to EtherCAT.



With a total of 600 participants, the ETG road show that took place during September 2012 in China set an attendance record.



The EtherCAT road show had its premiere this year in Brazil. The seminars held in six cities were well attended with 250 participants overall.



Lively discussions between participants at the North American EtherCAT Plug Fest 2012 in Chatsworth, California

Balanced and efficient

EtherCAT Plug Fest in North America

The popular Plug Fests events, which the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) holds at regular intervals, are a good example of the organization's work and its high acceptance worldwide. This track record was proven again at the recent 2012 North American Plug Fest, which took place at the end of August at Delta Tau Data Systems in Chatsworth, California and set a new attendance record for North America.

25 participants from 14 high profile manufacturers met in order to test the interoperability of every slave device individually and in various combinations on all the available controllers during the two-day event. With seven masters and nine slave devices, the ratio was fairly well balanced, which additionally increased the productivity of the meeting. The interoperability tests uncover potential difficulties or inadequacies of the devices at

a relatively early stage in development and can counteract any problems with EtherCAT implementation in advance. The devices are additionally tested using the official ETG Conformance Test Tool (CTT).

The personal exchange of views and expertise is a further important aspect of the Plug Fests. Whether discussing implementation approaches or possible difficulties during the development: The events offer an effective platform for the developers to talk to one another and to the ETG employees present. "The dedication of the participants at this year's Plug Fest in North America was remarkable. Thanks to the lively exchange of views we were able to work extremely efficient and constructive," says Rainer Hoffmann, Technologist from the EtherCAT Technology Group, who was present as an ETG contact person.

More than one new member application per calendar day

ETG sets records in membership growth

Almost nine years after its establishment, new member influx into the EtherCAT Technology Group not only continues unabated, but in fact continues to accelerate: to this point, the ETG welcomed its 2,000th member in summer 2012. In October of this year there were already over 2,100 members from 55 countries. Both Switzerland and Italy welcomed their respective hundredth member this year; the 250 mark has already been reached in Japan and the USA. "From the very outset our approach has been to make it possible for every company to use and to implement EtherCAT. The development in the last nine years and the present number of companies that implement EtherCAT in practice and invest in this technology prove that we have lastingly hit a nerve with EtherCAT," explains Martin Rostan, Executive Director of the EtherCAT Technology Group.

Following the basic development of EtherCAT, the EtherCAT Technology Group was founded in 2003 with the purpose of supporting the publication of the technology and of promoting its spread across the globe. The road that the ETG would take in the future was already clear at the time of its origin: back then over 30 companies had signed on as founder members within three weeks. "On average we receive more than one new application per calendar day in the ETG head office here in Nuremberg. There is no end in sight!" says Liliane Hügél, who is responsible for member administration at the ETG among other things.