

EtherCAT Seminar Series Well Attended

Nearly 1000 attendees participated in the EtherCAT Technology Group's recent Industrial Ethernet Seminar Series. All-day sessions were held in China, India, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom.

ETG's seminars focus strictly on the technology and its applications – delving deeper than a product presentation. The seminars include a detailed introduction to the technology and user-oriented presentations covering a wide range of topics from EtherCAT in various industrial applications to smoothly transitioning from classical fieldbus systems to EtherCAT. The program is supplemented with presentations on the implementation of EtherCAT interfaces in automation devices.

ETG has planned an expansion of these popular seminars into other regions. In the next few months, similar events will be held in Switzerland and the United States. ETG already has nearly 200 members in the United States alone, and membership in Switzerland is close to 100.

The worldwide acceptance, openness and success of the technology are demonstrated not only by membership figures, but also by the exceptional variety of devices with EtherCAT interfaces. At the EtherCAT Technology Group's booth at Hannover Messe, 64 co-exhibitors will show over 270 different EtherCAT devices.

Not to be missed is ETG's record-breaking multi-vendor drive demo showing 35 different axes of motion from 22 vendors operating synchronously on a single EtherCAT network.

Another highlight is the master variety display showing functional demonstrations of EtherCAT control devices used in equipment from 25 different vendors.

EtherCAT Technology Group

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EtherCAT sets new standards for real-time performance and topology flexibility, while meeting or undercutting traditional fieldbus cost levels. EtherCAT features include high precision device synchronization, cable redundancy options, and a functional safety protocol (SIL3). EtherCAT is an international standard (IEC, ISO and SEMI).

The protocol **Safety-over-EtherCAT (FSoE)** was specified for the transmission of safety relevant data. It is standardized in IEC 61784-3 Ed.2 and is used to send input information of safety sensors (such as safety light curtains or emergency stop buttons) to a safety logic controller. Based on these inputs, this controller computes the commands for the safe outputs (such as contactors or safety relevant drives) and thus controls the safety functionality of the machine.

The **EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG)** is an organization in which key user companies from various industries and leading automation suppliers join forces to support, promote and advance EtherCAT technology. With over 1600 members from 52 countries, the EtherCAT Technology Group has become the largest fieldbus organization in the world. Founded in November 2003, it is also currently the fastest growing fieldbus organization.

➔ For further information please also see www.ethercat.org