Press Release

Semiconductor industry "Goes EtherCAT" by backing ETG Semiconductor Working Group

Supported by the market-leading semiconductor equipment vendors, the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) has launched the Semi Technical Working Group (TWG) in Silicon Valley. The 2-day kick-off meeting was attended by 96 influential semiconductor industry experts. The goal of the EtherCAT Semi TWG is to standardize EtherCAT usage in manufacturing equipment for chips, displays and solar panels.

Representatives from Applied Materials, Aixtron, Lam Research and Brooks Automation explained at the meeting why they selected EtherCAT and what results they expect to achieve from the TWG. They also assured support for the 14 different task groups that were established, which will elaborate on device profiles for semiconductor-industry specific devices such as mass flow controllers, RF generators and vacuum gauges. Furthermore, a task group defines common implementation requirements such as exception handling or labeling.

The TWG also nominated a chairman, Daniel R. Judd from Arlington Laboratory, a well-known semiconductor industry expert in communication technology and standards. Judd had already chaired the ODVA Semi SIG, which in the nineties had successfully introduced the previous de-facto standard for the industry. "The new fieldbus standard for the semiconductor industry is EtherCAT – the establishment of the ETG Semi Technical Working Group adds even more evidence to support this," said Martin Rostan, ETG Executive Director. "We consider this a major achievement for EtherCAT, because in large segments of North America and Asia, the semiconductor industry has clear technology leadership and other industries follow accordingly."

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Press pictures

Picture caption:
Dmitry Dzilno of Applied Materials explains his company's decision to utilize EtherCAT at the newly formed ETG Semiconductor Technical Working Group.

Picture caption:
Daniel R. Judd of Arlington Laboratory is the new chairman of the ETG Semiconductor Technical Working Group (TWG).

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 1800 members from 52 countries – including over 200 American members – the ETG has become the largest fieldbus organization in the world. Founded in November 2003, it is also the fastest growing fieldbus organization.

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