

EtherCAT Technology Group to officially support EtherCAT P

The Technical Committee of the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) has accepted EtherCAT P as an addition to EtherCAT concordantly. Moving forward, EtherCAT P, which combines the well-known benefits of EtherCAT with power supply on the same cable, will be supported and promoted by the ETG.

Introduced at the 2015 SPS IPC Drives trade show, EtherCAT P was developed by Beckhoff Automation as an extension of the company's EtherCAT product range. Currently, the ETG is busy working out the EtherCAT P technology specification. Dr. Guido Beckmann, Chairman of the ETG Technical Committee, explains the decision to actively involve EtherCAT P into the ETG at Hannover Messe 2016: "EtherCAT P is the ideal supplement to the current portfolio of EtherCAT technology. Many prominent technology users have already expressed great interest in the technology extension and we're convinced that soon after the specification is finished, numerous ETG member companies will support EtherCAT P through the introduction of new products."

The key highlight of EtherCAT P is the combination of EtherCAT communication with system and peripheral voltage in a single Ethernet cable. Additionally, EtherCAT P supports power forwarding via the participants. Users will still enjoy the high-performance characteristics of EtherCAT, along with the flexible topology and many other beneficial features of EtherCAT systems. EtherCAT P presents the ideal solution for sensor, actuator and measurement technology: Material and assembly costs are reduced, as are the space requirements for drag chains, control cabinets and overall machine footprint. Beckmann continues: "With EtherCAT P, the devices have access to 2 x 24 V with a maximum of 3 A each, accomplished using traditional 4-wire Ethernet cables. This enables completely new cabling possibilities for our Ethernet fieldbus that had historically been found only in much slower systems. Thanks to 'daisy chaining' and the transmission of two 24 V supply voltages, the former limitations from combining Ethernet and power no longer apply when using EtherCAT P."

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About EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG):

The EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) is an association in which key user companies from various industries and leading automation suppliers join forces to support, promote and advance the EtherCAT technology. With over 3,700 members from 61 countries, the EtherCAT Technology Group has become the largest fieldbus organization in the world. Founded in November 2003, it is also the fastest growing association of its kind.

About EtherCAT®:

EtherCAT is the fastest Industrial Ethernet technology and stands for high-performance, low-cost, ease of use and a flexible topology. It was introduced in 2003 and became an international standard and a SEMI standard in 2007. The EtherCAT Technology Group promotes EtherCAT and is responsible for its continued development. EtherCAT is also an open technology: anyone is allowed to implement or use it.

➔ For further information please visit: www.ethercat.org

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