

### **Inaugural EtherCAT Technology Days A Great Success**

**The inaugural EtherCAT Technology Days recently took place in the Netherlands. In front of about 150 attendees, the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) presented various topics focused on EtherCAT technology. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to discuss their individual EtherCAT projects with the experts on-site through short, “speed-date” style conversations.**

A whole day in the name of EtherCAT: Occurring for the first time in Eindhoven and Rijssen in the Netherlands at the end of January, EtherCAT Technology Days provided participants with deep and detailed information about the technology. In addition, attendees received updates to specific topics such as Safety over EtherCAT and EtherCAT as it relates to the semiconductor industry. Among others, robotics developer MicroSure and machine builder Voortman Steel explained, as part of their presentations, why they made the decision to move to EtherCAT. Ferry Schoenmakers, engineer at MicroSure, comments: “Real-time capability, low cabling effort, modularity and robustness – EtherCAT has everything we need for our surgery robots.” Wim Bregman, leading engineer at Voortman Steel added: “EtherCAT provides us with exactly the flexibility and stability we need. Because the hardware is running problem-free, we can devote more time and energy to software development.” The machine builder even provided its new Voortman Experience Center as event location, giving the seminar a very special ambience.

Another feature of ETG’s new event concept were the so-called “speed date” sessions: Each participant had the opportunity to reserve short time slots in advance to discuss their individual EtherCAT projects with the experts on-site – an addition which was much appreciated by the attendees. Martin Rostan, Executive Director of the EtherCAT Technology Group, said: “With a total of around 150 participants, we are very satisfied with the debut of EtherCAT Technology Days and already looking forward to further events in the future.”

The seminar program was complemented with a tabletop exhibition from the event’s sponsors. Here, the participants could experience EtherCAT in practical applications. The free-to-attend, full-day seminars in the Netherlands were supported by ETG member companies Beckhoff Automation (main sponsor) as well as acontis, Festo, and Omron (co-sponsors).

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## Picture:



Picture caption:

At the first EtherCAT Technology Days (here at the event in Rijssen), the attendees learned more about EtherCAT in practical applications.

## 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 3000 members from 58 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<sup>®</sup>:

EtherCAT is the fastest Industrial Ethernet technology and stands for high-performance, low-cost, easy to use with 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](http://www.ethercat.org)

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