Press Release

EtherCAT Conformance Test Lab

The EtherCAT Technology Group will open the first EtherCAT Conformance Test Lab at the end of 2007. The Test Center will be located at headquarters of the ETG in Nuremberg, Germany; further test labs will follow.

Interoperability and protocol conformity of the devices are crucial prerequisites for the success of a network technology. In order to meet these requirements immediately, the EtherCAT Technology Group has been organizing so called "plug fests" since the beginning of 2006. These developer meetings have proved themselves and will be continued; the next one will take place in December at Baumüller in Nuremberg, Germany.

S In parallel, a Conformance Test Tool for an individual device test has been developed. At the end of this year, the beta-test phase of the tool ends, then the first official EtherCAT Conformance Test Lab will go into service. It is located at ETG headquarters in Nuremberg. For 2008 it is intended to establish another test lab in Germany, and later official test centers in Asia and North America will follow.

The Conformance Test Tool enables the ETG member companies to pretest their devices in their facilities first and then approach the test lab well prepared. "Only if the official test tool is also available at the ETG member's labs, it is already used during development. And only then future releases of these devices are reliably conformance-tested as well," says Dipl.-Ing. Florian Häfele, who is in charge of establishing the test lab at the ETG. "We decided to start with a lab at ETG headquarters for two reasons: First of all, we want to make sure that the experiences with the test process can directly and without delay be picked up by the test tool, and we also want to provide first-hand support and test consultancy for our members."

EtherCAT Technology Group
Martin Rostan
Ostendstraße 196
90482 Nuremberg
Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 20
Fax: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 29
m.rostan@ethercat.org
www.ethercat.org

Press Contact
Andrea Bock
Beckhoff Automation GmbH
Eiserstr. 5
33415 Verl
Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 52 46 / 9 63 140
Fax: +49 (0) 52 46 / 9 63 199
press@ethercat.org
www.ethercat.org/press/

Press Release

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 the EtherCAT technology. With over 600 members, the EtherCAT Technology Group has become the largest organization in the world that is exclusively focused on Industrial Ethernet technologies. Founded in November 2003, it is also currently the fastest growing fieldbus organization.

EtherCAT sets new standards for real-time performance and topology flexibility, while meeting or undercutting fieldbus cost levels. EtherCAT features include high precision device synchronization, a cable redundancy option, and a functional safety protocol (SIL3).

➔ ETG booth at SPS/IPC/DRIVES: **Hall 6, Booth 309**

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