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COMAU Robots use POWERLINK

The C5G control unit for user-friendly and efficient management of the entire SMART5 Comau Robot range with outstanding dynamics and precision can handle robots configured with up to 16 interpolated axes.

Comau created the unit using B&R ACOPOSmulti modular intelligent servo drives and fast communication via POWERLINK. This real-time network backbone also connects a modular set of both digital and analog B&R X20 I/Os and a powerful Automation PC with a dual-core processor.



Used throughout the entire manufacturing process in the automotive industry, COMAU robots rely on POWERLINK for the synchronization of all axes that lends them a unique combination of speed and positioning precision.

Comau Robotics S.p.A. ranges among the major players in the manufacturing of high quality industrial robots. With a combination of high speed and precision as well as outstandingly versatile kinematics, Comau robots cover a wide area of applications, predominantly in the automotive and general industry. "In automotive plants performing body welding there is a large amount of electromagnetic interference, so EMC stability is absolutely essential for their communication networks. That's why Comau trusts in POWERLINK," says Ing. Giorgio Alotto, Hardware Engineering Manager at Comau – Robotics Business Line.

"With POWERLINK as the core communication technology, Comau robots are offering an outstanding combination of speed and precision for complex applications," says Stefan Schönegger, EPSG Managing Director. "This innovative real-time Ethernet protocol allows fast synchronization of numerous axis movements, not only within a robot, but including auxiliary equipment or integrating multi-robot cells."

April 08 - 12, 2013: POWERLINK at Hannover Messe

At the leading international trade show on process and manufacturing automation as well as system solutions for production and buildings at Hannover, Germany, in the second week of April numerous exhibitors will showcase their technologies and solutions utilizing POWERLINK and openSAFETY. In addition, EPSG will also be there with its own booth: Hall 9, Booth F25

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Free POWERLINK Evaluation Software

The development software package by IXXAT used in the development of Managing Nodes (MN) und Controlled Nodes (CN) for POWERLINK is now available in a free evaluation version. Its modular software design, optimized for execution speed, facilitates the fast and simple design of POWERLINK devices (master and slave). It features a clearly structured programming interface for interfacing with the application program, utilizes C source code that can be used on any target platform and can be executed with or without an operating system. On its web site, POWERLINK technology partner IXXAT has published a form for requisitioning the free software. "To make POWERLINK evaluation software free of charge is a smart and favorable move by IXXAT that will result in increased POWERLINK integration in devices from numerous manufacturers", says Stefan Schönegger, managing director of the EPSG.

http://www.ixxat.de/ethernet_powerlink_cn_mn_stack_de.html

IXXAT became Part of HMS Industrial Networks

HMS Industrial Networks has acquired IXXAT Automation. IXXAT is a leading supplier of communication technology for industrial automation, manufacturing systems engineering and the automotive industry. The company was established in 1987 and has its headquarters at Weingarten, Germany. "After the merger, IXXAT and HMS constitute a group of companies in the area of industrial communication with 350 staff and revenues exceeding 50 million Euros, making it one of the world market leaders in that industry", says HMS Industrial Networks CEO, Staffan Dahlström.



From left: Staffan Dahlström, CEO HMS; Prof. Dr. Ing. Konrad Etschberger, founder IXXAT; Christian Schlegel, general manager IXXAT

Between them, the two companies have the most comprehensive and most competitive portfolio of communication technologies for the automation markets. "The high-tech products and services from IXXAT ideally supplement the business fields HMS in which has been an active player", Dahlström continues. "In a joint effort with our Karlsruhe subsidiary, IXXAT will further advance our market position in Germany, the world's leading market for industrial communication solutions."

With 50 new design engineers, HMS is expanding its development resources in terms of numbers and profits from the wealth of experience of the new colleagues. The existing global HMS sales channels, on the other hand, provide IXXAT with a wider access to the market. Furthermore, HMS has valuable experience in manufacturing and logistics, which provides the group with further potentials for increasing efficiency and profitability.

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EPSG openSAFETY Workgroup Meeting at Danfoss

From March 5 to 7, 2013, members of the EPSG openSAFETY workgroup met in Gråsten, Denmark, one of the design and production facilities of Danfoss. In its March meeting, the workgroup focused on electrical drive technology. Consequently, mainly EPSG member companies from this area met in Denmark. In addition to Danfoss as the host, other great names in drive technology took attended the meeting, among them Yaskawa, Control Technique and NORD Drivesystems.

open
SAFETY

From March 5 to 7, 2013, members of the EPSG openSAFETY workgroup met in Gråsten, Denmark, for their most recent meeting.

"The drive market is rapidly changing", says Stefan Schöneegger, general manager of EPSG. "The suppliers are confronted with requirements that are increasingly difficult to meet, the effort required for the implementation of many different standards within a single product, however, is immense." This is why, based on openSAFETY, the industry is pursuing integrated safety concepts that are independent of the various control and field bus systems.

The aim of the workgroup meeting in Denmark was the preparation of generally accepted SafeMotion profiles that can consequently be established as standards. They will be instrumental in further simplifying the integration of complex safe reactions and in the mitigation of interface issues between safe applications and the underlying safety technology.

embedded world: EPSG exhibition success



High visitor numbers throughout the Nuremberg embedded world show at the EPSG booth in Hall 4a.

In February, 2013, the Nuremberg embedded world show as a platform for technologies for the integration on board and device level once more confirmed its role as an important event for EPSG and its partner companies.

Not only the EPSG booth saw extraordinarily high visitor numbers, many EPSG member companies also registered a vivid interest in POWERLINK and openSAFETY at their booths.

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POWERLINK & openSAFETY in Construction Machines

At the bauma 2013 show running April 15 to 21, 2013 in Munich, Germany, EPSG will in hall D, booth D1.216, showcase cutting-edge industrial communication and safety solutions already proven in real-life applications. They break the path to elevated safety and competitiveness for the industry.

Once an important step ahead and still the undisputed, recognized data communication standard in vehicles, the CAN bus is reaching its limits due to ever more intelligent sensors and constantly rising masses of data.

The fast real-time Ethernet POWERLINK solves this problem adequately and in a future-proof manner. As an Ethernet-based protocol, POWERLINK comes standard with a high communication bandwidth. Thus, it can provide even the most demanding sensor systems or imaging technology applications with sufficient data transfer capacity without any need for software or hardware adaptation.

Implementation of safety measures according to the currently valid 2006/42/EG EC machinery directive and the applicable standards is eased by the openSAFETY safety protocol. While seamlessly field bus integrated, it is independent of the communication protocol used. Safety-relevant signals tunnel through the underlying transport layer of protocols such as POWERLINK.

This renders separate wiring of the safety components unnecessary, as those are connected to the network just like all other components. Thus, modules and devices that have to fulfill certain safety requirements but are not permanently attached can be included without additional effort for cabling. Direct integration with the standard network also reduces reaction times and extends options for diagnostics. This greatly enhances the availability of mobile machines.



At the 2013 bauma show in Munich, the EPSG will showcase in hall D, booth D1.216 solutions enhancing safety and competitiveness of mobile machinery that have been proven in real-life applications, first and foremost the open standards, POWERLINK and openSAFETY.

March 17, 2013: Lecture on POWERLINK in Chemnitz

A German language lecture with the title "POWERLINK + Open Source IP-Core => FPGA" given last Sunday by Daniel Krüger, software developer with SYS TEC electronic GmbH, met with vivid interest at the Chemnitz Linux Days.

Read more: <http://chemnitzer.linux-tage.de/2013/vortraege/322>