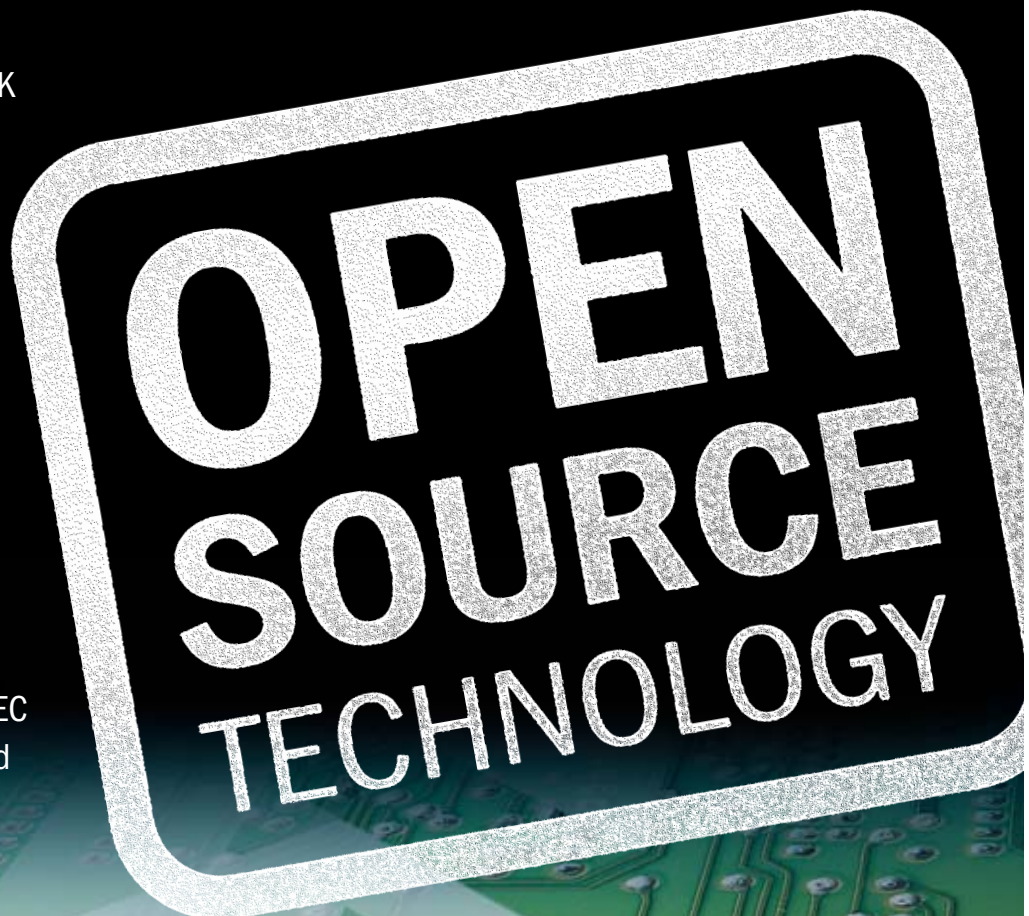


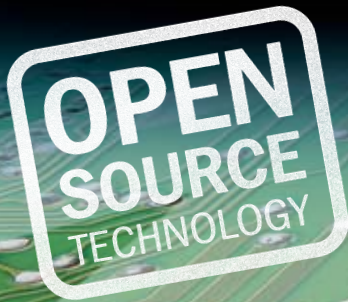
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POWERLINK goes Open Source!

Download your free POWERLINK version from the internet now – without any license limitations! The only entirely free real-time communication system worldwide is now available from the largest Open Source platform (<http://SourceForge.net/projects/openpowerlink>). The name of the solution: OpenPOWERLINK.

The OpenPOWERLINK solution, which was developed by SYS TEC electronic, has been tested and complies with the DS 301 POWERLINK specification (version 1.0.0).





continued: **POWERLINK goes Open Source!**



Siegmar Schmidt:

“OpenPOWERLINK creates a win-win situation for manufacturers and users. The arguments in favor of this concept are convincing for all players on the market.”



Figure: Siegmar Schmidt,
managing director of
SYS TEC electronic GmbH



The first entirely free complete system

“By releasing our POWERLINK solution, we create an absolute novelty in the field of Ethernet-based real-time systems. POWERLINK operates with standard, on-board Ethernet controllers, requiring no proprietary hardware whatsoever. Moreover, our software package contains the stacks for both the Managing Node (master) and the Controlled Nodes (clients). Therefore, our Open Source POWERLINK solution is the first entirely free complete system. The downloadable sample implementation, which is based on a Linux OS, reaches cycle times as low as 500 microseconds, with a synchronicity of few microseconds. This enables users to use OpenPOWERLINK even for technically demanding applications in the field of control engineering.”

Use at your leisure

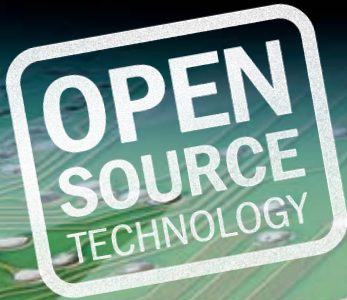
“SYS TEC electronic has released its POWERLINK solution under the BSD (Berkeley Software distribution) Open Source license, which allows you to use, distribute and modify the software and to add development enhancements free of charge. You may integrate our free software into proprietary products and sell these, and you do not need to disclose the source code of your own adaptations to the stack. Basically, you can use our software package in whichever way suits you best – the copyright notice merely needs to stay in place. The complete license terms can be viewed at www.opensource.org/licenses/bsd-license.php.”

Company background:

SYS TEC electronic GmbH has been developing micro controller systems since 1990. The company specializes in distributed automation solutions based on POWERLINK and CANopen as well as internet communication for industrial applications. SYS TEC electronic's key areas of expertise include close integration of hardware and software, the development of embedded systems, PCB mounting and device manufacturing. The Greiz-based company employs a staff of 36, including 15 development engineers. A network of international distributors represents SYS TEC in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

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www.systemec-electronic.com



continued: **POWERLINK goes Open Source!**



Anton Meindl:

“Openness has always been a strong argument in favor of POWERLINK. Manufacturers and users can directly influence technological development and are not dependent on single suppliers.

Open Source licensing is therefore an important investment for the future.”



Figure: Anton Meindl,
CEO of the EPSG

All market players benefit from openness

“The release of the POWERLINK protocol source code consistently follows our tradition of openness, which began in 2002 with the disclosure of the POWERLINK specification and led to the foundation of the democratically structured user organization EPSG. We are convinced that all market players benefit from non-proprietary basic technologies, resulting in a market upturn: while users gain a high degree of independence, service providers and component manufacturers profit from an increasing market penetration and wider application fields. Quality and maturity level of a technology strongly benefit from a wide community.”

The future of automation

“POWERLINK is the first complete real-time system which has been made available free of charge. In doing so, we are following a currently emerging trend which will turn into an important market factor in the medium term: Open Source in automation. Free software ensures long product cycles, since the decision on how long a system is used is left to the users. Adaptations and new developments are possible at any time, without license obstacles and independent from software suppliers.”

Download OpenPOWERLINK
from SYS TEC electronic here:

<http://SourceForge.net/projects/openpowerlink>

Read the terms of the BSD license here:

www.opensource.org/licenses/bsd-license.php



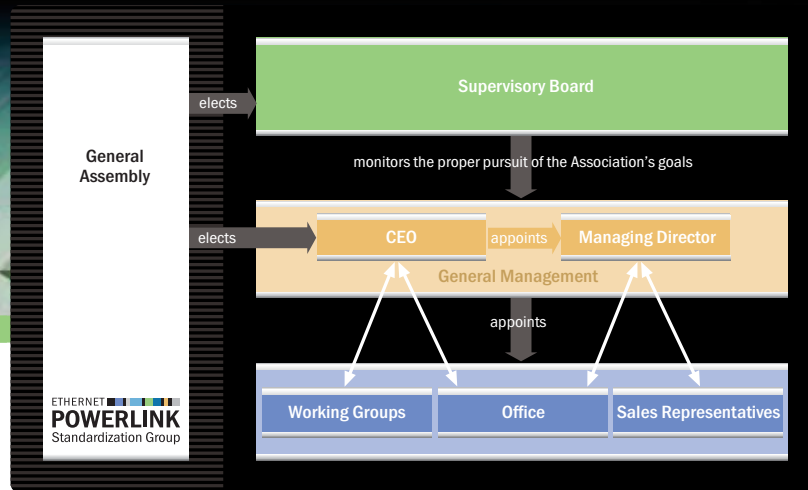
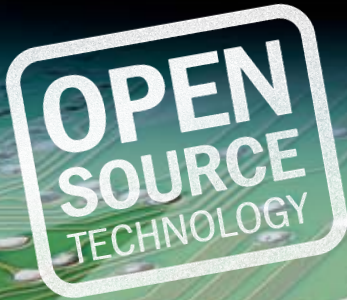


Figure: Organizational chart of the restructured EPSG (as of April 2008)

Supervisory board now monitors EPSG and POWERLINK

At its regular general assembly in early April, the Ethernet POWERLINK Standardization Group voted to revise its organizational structure in order to better meet market requirements. The members of the registered association agreed to reduce the number of executive board members from five to one.

Anton Meindl (B&R), the EPSG's former vice chairman, was elected CEO. Rüdiger Eikmeier, who has been actively working with the EPSG for a long time, was appointed managing director by Meindl. These organizational changes were deemed necessary in order to make the EPSG an even more powerful market player. The newly constituted supervisory board monitors the proper pursuit of the association's purpose and goals by its CEO. Dr. Edwin Kiel (Lenze), the EPSG's former chairman, was appointed chairman of the supervisory board. Former executive board members Prof. Dr.-Ing. Konrad Etschberger (IXXAT), Andreas Dreher (Hirschmann) and Prof. Dr. Thomas Müller (ZHW Zürich) will also join the supervisory board, together with Hans Wimmer (B&R president). The EPSG members expect these structural changes to result in streamlined work processes and a better market position, enabling the organization to extend its market leadership with currently 50,000 POWERLINK series machines used worldwide.

POWERLINK at the
Hannover Messe trade show
21 – 25 April 2008
hall 15, booth C04



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"POWERLINK Newsletter" is an information service of the EPSG – Ethernet POWERLINK Standardization Group, c/o Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, InES, Technikumstrasse 22, 8401 Winterthur, Switzerland

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