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New EPSG member Kalycito

Kalycito has joined the EPSG in April 2008. Seated in France and India, the young company provides research and development services in the fields of aircraft industry, automotive electronics, medical technology, entertainment electronics, industrial automation and telecommunications. Kalycito specializes in real-time operating systems, all types of network protocols, adaptation and distribution of Open-Source-based software and international standardization.

Plugfest at EPSG technology center in Berlin

On June 18 and 19, technology developers will meet for a plugfest at the EPSG technology center in Berlin. They will test the smooth functioning of Managing and Controlled Nodes in combination with other POWERLINK components. Apart from carrying out interoperability and performance tests, which will serve as a basis for certification later on, the experts will also establish the easiest ways to integrate components into different target systems. The event is already fully booked. "We are very pleased with the high number of registrations", says Stefan Schönegger, head of EPSG Business Development and Support, who also heads the plugfest. "Many renowned drive manufacturers will attend the event."



Figure: Stefan Schönegger, EPSG Business Development and Support, heads the plugfest

Manufacturers who are interested in participating in the next plugfest are invited to contact the POWERLINK office for registration. The office will also supply the next date.

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Integrated drives from Schneider Electric now with a POWERLINK interface



Schneider Electric's line of integrated drives has been equipped with a POWERLINK interface. The units are used as decentral drives in machine building or automation applications. Together with a motion controller or a PLC, they allow for the simple and cost-efficient implementation of automation tasks.

Schneider Electric supplies ready-to-use function blocks which facilitate the programming of motion controllers. Now suitable for Industrial Ethernet applications, the integrated drives with a maximum performance of 350 Watt fulfill real-time requirements, e.g. those of electronic gears. They also carry out non-time-critical applications, such as simple positioning tasks. Three integrated drive models are available: IFA with an AC synchronous servo motor, IFE with a three-phase synchronous motor (EC motor) and IFS with a step motor.

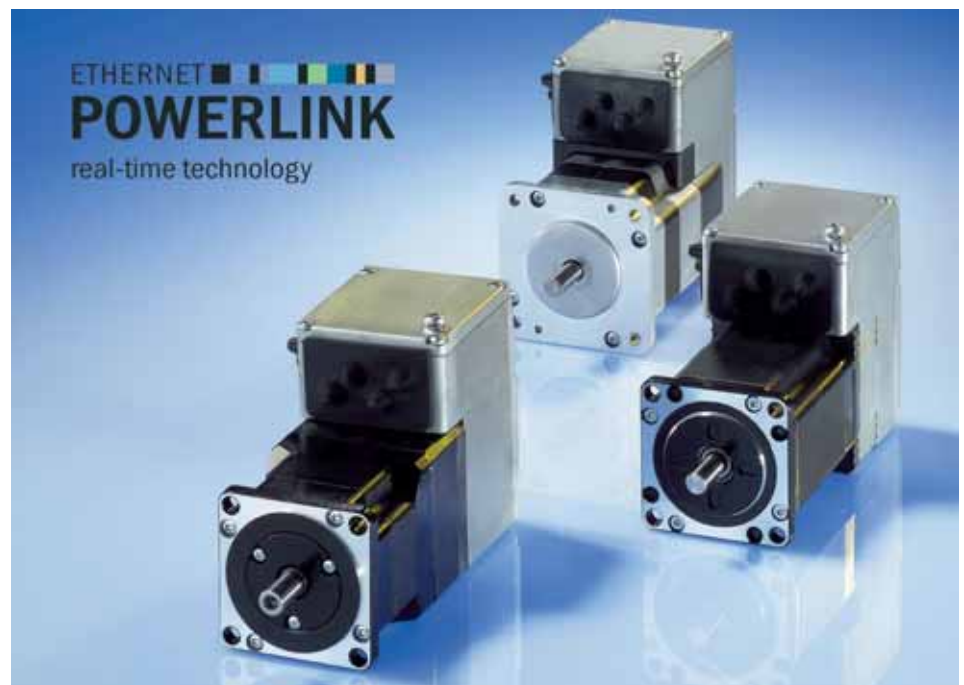


Figure: Now equipped with a POWERLINK interface: integrated drives from Schneider Electric

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Open doubles team: EPSG and OSADL agree on close cooperation

The Ethernet POWERLINK Standardization Group (EPSG) and the Open Source Automation Development Lab (OSADL) will cooperate closely from now on. On the last day of the Hannover Messe trade show, the managing directors of EPSG and OSADL, Rüdiger Eikmeier and Dr. Carsten Emde, announced the future cooperation of both organizations, which have exchanged memberships.



Figure: Dr. Carsten Emde (OSADL) and Rüdiger Eikmeier (EPSG) exchanging signatures

This move was motivated by the disclosure of a POWERLINK solution through EPSG member and systems house SYS TEC electronic, and considerations on the part of the EPSG to apply this Open Source policy to further products. "Cooperating is a step in the right direction, towards an open development of POWERLINK, which benefits all users", explains Anton Meindl, CEO of the EPSG. "In contrast to other real-time Ethernet organizations, we regard Open Source as a model for success for basic technologies such as real-time Ethernet networks. Openness means independence: users can focus on their process know-how, and are guaranteed to be able to implement necessary adjustments or add development enhancements at any time. Thus, openness also ensures investment protection." Emde expects Open Source systems to gain a market share around 40 % in embedded systems and in machine and plant construction until 2010 - the current rate is 15 to 20 %. Both managing directors agree that some users' fears concerning Open Source systems are "completely unfounded", since valuable software know-how can be protected even in Open Source scenarios. "We will need to increase the awareness

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continued: **Open doubles team:**

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of the issue”, says Eikmeier. “A look at France or Italy, for instance, shows that arguments typically raised against Open Source are proven to be incorrect. In these countries, Open Source systems are already firmly established in the market.”

**EPSG first-time exhibitor at BIAS trade show**

At this year's BIAS, the EPSG was present as a first-time exhibitor. The BIAS, which took place from May 27 to 30 in Milan, is Italy's leading automation trade show. “We held many in-depth discussions at our booth”, says Rüdiger Eikmeier, managing director of the EPSG. “Especially our openPOWERLINK solution met with great interest. An Open Source solution in this field obviously fits the requirements of Italian machine builders.” Even though many exhibitors found the number of BIAS visitors rather average, the EPSG booth

proved very popular. The staff noted that inquiries from visitors were specific and technical. “We had the impression that this



trade show attracted many trade visitors”, says Eikmeier. Stefan Schönegger, head of EPSG Business Development and Support, confirms this fact: “We noted hardly any general inquiries. Visitors to our booth asked about the implementation of specific projects. Our new contacts are therefore very promising – we regard this trade show as a success.”

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review Hannover Messe 2008:**Special press conference introduces
openPOWERLINK at this year's HMI**

On April 21, 2008, the EPSG held a special press conference at the Hannover Messe trade show, announcing the release of its openPOWERLINK solution. Despite the short notice, many journalists from renowned trade journals were present to



Bild: (v. l. n. r.) Rüdiger Eikmeier, Siegmart Schmidt, Anton Meindl, Andreas Enzenbach

witness the beginning of a new development. Andreas Enzenbach, head of EPSG marketing, welcomed the journalists and introduced the speakers. Afterwards, Anton Meindl, CEO of the EPSG; Siegmart Schmidt, managing director of SYS TEC electronic and Rüdiger Eikmeier, managing director of the EPSG, explained the reasons behind the Open Source release, classified the POWERLINK solution in terms of technical and market-related aspects and explained the details of the BSD Open Source license. The EPSG representatives then answered questions from trade journalists, who showed great interest in the reasons for the release and quality control in new products based on the disclosed source code.



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HMI 2008 a great success for EPSG

The Hannover Messe trade show is experiencing an upswing – a fact which was also noted by the EPSG, an exhibitor in hall 15 (Factory Automation). “We are very pleased with this year’s outcome”, says Rüdiger Eikmeier, managing director of the EPSG. “We have made many very promising contacts.” Additionally, the EPSG reports a greatly in-



creased general interest in POWERLINK compared with previous years. The great attention visitors paid to openPOWERLINK was especially striking. “Not only did we answer many inquiries from experts – we also constantly had to refill our display dispensers with the newsletter special issue”, says Stefan Schönegger, EPSG

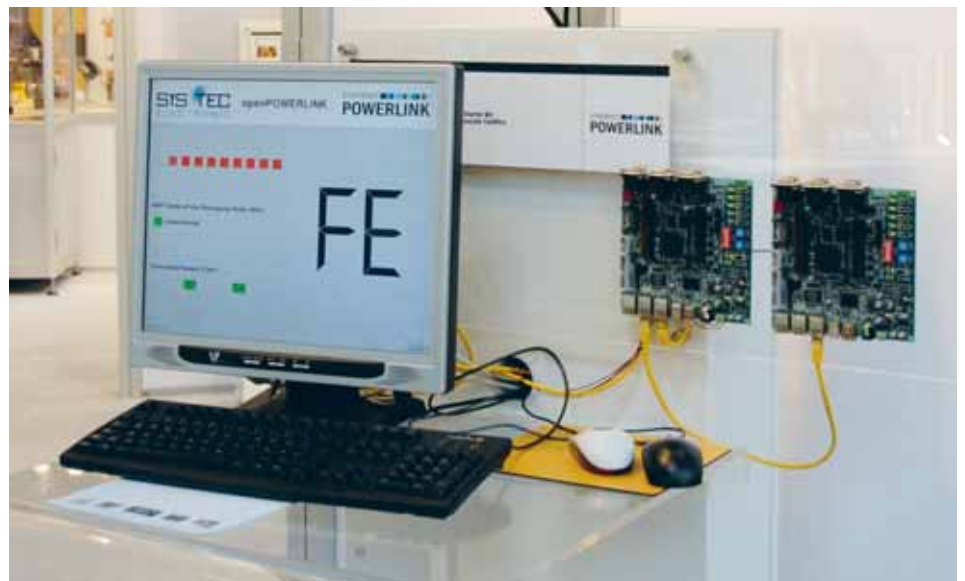


Figure: Live presentation of the SYS TEC Open Source solution at the POWERLINK trade show booth

Business Development and Support. Moreover, the POWERLINK user organization welcomed a new member: OSADL (Open Source Automation Development Lab) and agreed upon extensive cooperation.

Masthead:

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