NEWS

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2009 SPS/IPC/Drives exhibition: EPSG presents openSAFETY

One and a half years after the introduction of openPOWERLINK, the first open source real-time Ethernet protocol worldwide, we are proud to present another major development at the upcoming SPS/IPC/Drives exhibition in Nuremberg, Germany: openSAFETY, the first open source safety communication protocol.

SPS/IPC/Drives 2009: The EPSG displays POWERLINK technology at stand 114 in hall 6

A renowned service provider for data communication systems and member of the Ethernet POWERLINK Standardization Group, IXXAT has developed the POWERLINK Safety stack. IXXAT releases the software under the open source BSD license just in time for the first day of the SPS/IPC/Drives exhibition. You will find the details in the following contribution. As a further highlight of our exhibition stand, we will showcase the POWERLINK solution which won the first prize at the European Industrial Ethernet Award. See the last page of the newsletter for the particulars.

For more information, please visit the EPSG at stand 114, in hall 6, where, you can find out everything about POWERLINK, POWERLINK Safety, our open source products as well as the EPSG itself and our members. We are looking forward to meeting you.

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POWERLINK Safety:

The first open source safety fieldbus solution

A service provider in the field of data communication systems for the automation industry and member of the Ethernet POWERLINK Standardization Group, IXXAT releases their POWERLINK Safety solution into the public domain. From November 24th, the openSAFETY stack will be available free of charge under the business-friendly open source BSD license. Initially, openSAFETY will be available for download from IXXAT's website exclusively.

Christian Schlegel, CEO of IXXAT

"Following the publication of openPOWERLINK and openCONFIGURATOR by EPSG members, we do our share by making POWERLINK Safety freely available. Thus, we add an important module to EPSG's open source program", says Christian Schlegel, CEO of IXXAT. The safety-oriented protocol is a real-time, Ethernet-capable solution for machine and factory automation, which is suitable for communication cycles in the microsecond range. Independent from the choice of fieldbus, it handles the transmission of safety-oriented and standard control data in one system and via a single channel. The German technical monitoring association TÜV Rheinland has certified the original POWERLINK Safety version for use in SIL3-compliant systems. However, Schlegel points out that any openSAFETY-based product development necessitates new, dedicated testing by certification institutions such as TÜV. Before downloading openSAFETY from the IXXAT website, visitors must register. "We require registration for the benefit of the users", says Schlegel, "because it ensures that we can pass on important news regarding the software or their application to them. We proceed with extra caution because in publishing safety-oriented software we are breaking fresh ground.

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Danish students win European Industrial Ethernet Award

Last fall, B&R invited European universities to develop creative solutions and innovative concepts based on POWERLINK for the European Industrial Ethernet Award. 27 teams from eight countries joined the competition.

B&R awards intelligent solutions integrating POWERLINK technology

Now, the jury has selected a Danish group of students from Odense University as the winners. With its creative implementation of the board electronics of a Formula Student racing car the team lead by professor Karsten Holm Andersen won 10,000 euros prize money. Their solution will be displayed at the EPSG's trade show stand at the 2009 SPS/IPC/Drives, stand 114 in hall 6. The X-Cut project of TU Vienna came second and won 5,000 euros for their mechanically extremely stable machine tools. The third place, which is endowed with 2,500 euros, went to the Slovakian TU Bratislava for their solution optimizing filling plants.

To contest for the second European Industrial Ethernet Award, interested groups can register until 18th December 2009. For details, please see B&R's homepage www.br-automation.com under Career/European Industrial Ethernet Award.