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POWERLINK-Office at a new address**IEC approves openSAFETY as worldwide standard**

The fieldbus-independent openSAFETY protocol was tested according to IEC 61784-3 FSCP 13 and approved by national IEC committees representing 27 countries including China, USA and Germany, and is therefore released for international standardization.

Because openSAFETY is bus independent, it can be used with all fieldbus or industrial Ethernet systems. At the HMI 2010 trade fair, openSAFETY was presented in applications using some of the most popular industrial Ethernet protocols: SERCOS III, Modbus TCP, EtherNet/IP and POWERLINK. For the first time, users of an industrial Ethernet system other than POWERLINK now also have a complete, certified and open safety solution available to them. openSAFETY has been certified by TÜV Rheinland and TÜV Süd for SIL 3 applications.

„End customers have been requesting a uniform and manufacturer-independent standard for years, and openSAFETY is the response to those requests. It allows increases in productivity that are currently not possible with other safety protocols”, states Stefan Schoenegger, Open Automation BU Manager at B&R.



openSAFETY, the first open and bus-independent safety protocol suitable for all areas of industry

Contact:**EPSG POWERLINK-OFFICE**

Schaperstr. 18

10719 Berlin - Germany

Phone: +49 . 30 . 85 08 85 -29

Fax: +49 . 30 . 85 08 85 -86

info@ethernet-powerlink.org

www.ethernet-powerlink.org

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POWERLINK included in EUROMAP specification

EUROMAP, the European association of plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers, has included POWERLINK in the EUROMAP 75 specification, which recommends protocols for data communication with peripheral equipment. It consists of three parts: EUROMAP 75-1 describes profiles for measuring devices, EUROMAP 75-2 covers physical interfaces and connection technology, and EUROMAP 75-3 focuses on the implementation of real-time Ethernet systems, listing POWERLINK and two more protocols. Product quality in injection molding largely depends on the reaction times of both measuring chain and machine controller. A precise adjustment of the holding pressure, for instance, which ensures an even distribution of the melt throughout the die, requires pressure and temperature data to be processed quickly. Even simple switching operations require maximum reaction times of 0.5 milliseconds. Providing communication cycles of few hundred microseconds, POWERLINK is particularly well-suited for a zero-delay infrastructure for such control circuits. Enabling cross-traffic, the real-time protocol also allows for a highly precise synchronization of several axes. "The inclusion of POWERLINK in the EUROMAP specification underlines the protocol's leading position among hard real-time protocols and its universal suitability for all industries", says Anton Meindl, CEO of the Ethernet POWERLINK Standardization Group. The EUROMAP specifications can be downloaded at www.euromap.org.

EPSG expands executive management and supervisory board

At its general assembly in June, the Ethernet POWERLINK Standardisation Group (EPSG) has appointed Christian Schlegel, CEO of IXXAT, to its supervisory board. In this position, Schlegel follows Prof. Dr.-Ing. Konrad Etschberger who has retired. Furthermore, Laurent Schmitt, Vice President Strategy and Innovation at ALSTOM, is a new supervisory board member. Stefan Schönegger, Business Unit Manager Open Automation at B&R, has been appointed as the General Manager; he will manage the business operations for the POWERLINK user organization.



Stefan Schönegger, Business Unit Manager Open Automation at B&R, is the EPSG's new General Manager

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The EPSG office has moved. The new address is:

POWERLINK-OFFICE

Schaperstr. 18

10719 Berlin

Germany

The phone and internet contacts remain the same:

Phone: +49 . 30 . 85 08 85 -29

Fax: +49 . 30 . 85 08 85 -86

info@ethernet-powerlink.org

www.ethernet-powerlink.org

Contact:

EPSP POWERLINK-OFFICE

Schaperstr. 18

10719 Berlin - Germany

Phone: +49 . 30 . 85 08 85 -29

Fax: +49 . 30 . 85 08 85 -86

info@ethernet-powerlink.org

www.ethernet-powerlink.org

Masthead:

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Editorial Office:

Rüdiger Eikmeier (Editor in Chief), Heiko Wittke - gii die Presse-Agentur GmbH,

Immanuelkirchstr. 12, 10405 Berlin, Germany, Tel.: +49 03-53 89 65-0, Fax: +49 03-53 89 65-29

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