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Innovations abound at SPS IPC Drives



EPSPG will be presenting numerous new POWERLINK devices at SPS IPC Drives.

The popular real-time POWERLINK fieldbus continues to excite. The EPSPG will be presenting numerous new devices featuring POWERLINK and openSAFETY at its new location in Hall 2, Booth 410 at SPS IPC Drives.

New POWERLINK devices

New POWERLINK-enabled products from companies like LTi, Fraba POSITAL, Crevis, Elobau, SIKO, B&R and Advantech will be showcased in Nuremberg from November 25-27. „Our membership has surged by more than 15 percent this year,“ says Stefan Schöneegger, managing director of the EPSPG. The last quarter alone saw the addition of LTi, Indu-Sol, Fedegari, DUKANE, Renesas, elobau, Eltromat and Advantech. This growth is reflected in the many new products on display.

openSAFETY: New version

Also on exhibit at the EPSPG booth will be the openSAFETY protocol. Recently released V1.4 of the openSAFETY distribution features numerous improvements and will be presented for the first time to a larger audience. An openSAFETY demo will also show how easily openSAFETY can be integrated into a wide range of automation solutions.

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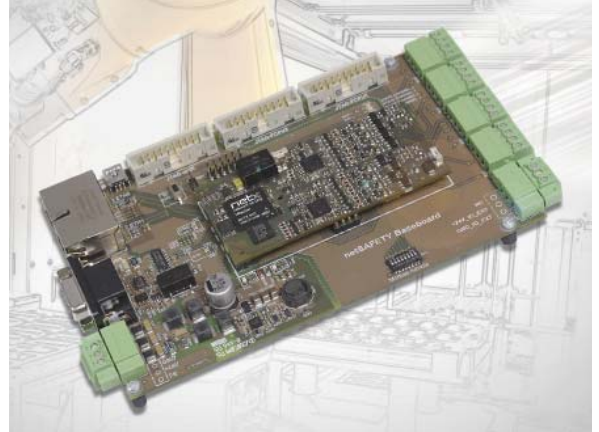
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Evaluation board from Hilscher with openSAFETY

To make integrating openSAFETY even easier and more cost-effective, Hilscher developed a new netSAFETY module featuring openSAFETY over POWERLINK. Hilscher's partner MESCO provides engineering support for custom design-in solutions using the module.



With the new netSAFETY module from Hilscher, implementing openSAFETY is now easier than ever.

The evaluation board featuring the new netSAFETY module significantly reduces the development time required for openSAFETY integration. With the hardware and software already perfectly harmonized, a substantial portion of the development work is already done. Plans for TÜV pre-certification are underway, which will accelerate the certification process and lower costs even further. The evaluation board also provides key hardware and software design elements that can be adopted for custom projects.

No tedious wiring

The netSAFETY module is perfectly suited as a design-in solution for HMI panels, frequency inverters, servo drives, light curtains and more – making integration of safety signals into these devices much more simple. With all safety signals exchanged over the openSAFETY network, the Hilscher solution does away with the extensive wiring that is otherwise required.

The evaluation board features a netSAFETY module with a netX-52 network controller as well as two F-CPU's that combine safety communication and functional communication on a single board. The board has one safe output and three safe inputs with SIL3 compliance.

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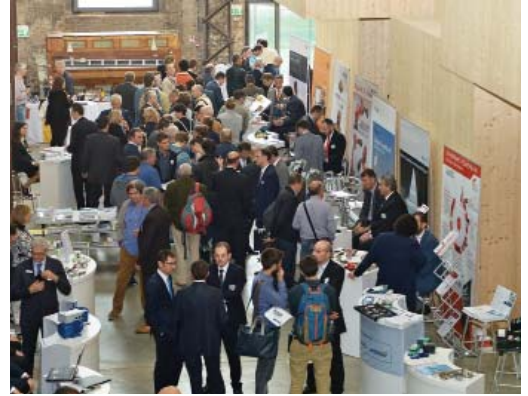
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POWERLINK Convention with more than 150 attendees

The first POWERLINK Convention was a huge success. More than 150 participants came to Reggio Emilia, Italy, to discuss and share POWERLINK applications. The POWERLINK Convention was organized by the Italian division of Messe Frankfurt.



Exceptional turnout at the first POWERLINK Convention in Reggio Emilia, Italy.

It brought together OEMs, end users, system integrators, engineering firms, developers, technical managers, plant directors, professors and researchers. "The convention turned out to be the largest Italian event dedicated to an industrial communication standard," says Stéphane Potier, technology marketing manager with the Ethernet POWERLINK Standardization Group (EPSPG). "This shows how successful POWERLINK has become in Europe."

The convention was an opportunity for all participants to get an in-depth look at the technical aspects of POWERLINK. Industry experts had the chance to meet end users whose applications use POWERLINK and everybody could see first hand the wide range of products available featuring POWERLINK interfaces. Exhibiting partners at the event included: ABB, B&R, Cognex, Comau, Eaton, Festo, Hilscher, HMS, Laumas, MTS Sensor, NORD DRIVESYSTEMS and TELESTAR.

New POWERLINK products certified

During the latest POWERLINK certification event, which took place at the end of October in Salzburg (Austria), a new batch of products were tested for conformity to the POWERLINK specification. A product only receives EPSPG certification after successfully passing all test scenarios and test cases.

These strict requirements guarantee a high level of quality for EPSPG-certified POWERLINK products worldwide. During final PlugFest testing, all components were connected together in a large heterogeneous network with mixed topologies and tested using various master systems.

Products from the following companies received certification: SIKO, MTS Sensor Technology, Festo, Baumer and BST eltromat.

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