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Historic Milestone for EtherCAT Technology Group: The 1000th Member

With 1000 member companies joining in just over 5 years, the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) is undoubtedly a dynamic organization powered by rapid growth. The 1000th member of the ETG is Multivac, a world leader in packaging machine technology with its headquarters in Bavaria, Germany.

The ETG was introduced to the world at a press conference in November 2003 and the group's Kick-off Meeting took place March 9 - 10, 2004. Since these early events, EtherCAT has not only become an international standard, but a globally accepted fieldbus technology with considerable market penetration. Today, the ETG has members in 45 countries, runs offices in Germany, the United States, China, Japan and Korea, and keeps its growing team of 15 quite busy. For two consecutive years, the ETG has grown by an average of one new member every business day. Near the beginning of the group's existence, 70% of members came from Germany; today, over 65% of the membership hails from other countries. The second largest member group by country is the United States, closely followed by Japan, then Italy, Switzerland and China. In Asia alone, there are an impressive 220 member companies.

"Of course, we are extremely happy to have achieved this membership milestone so quickly," says Martin Rostan, Executive Director of the ETG. "I believe it is the highly compelling nature of the EtherCAT technology itself that caused this enormous interest. The story of this success is not told only by the number of members, but also the worldwide distribution and acceptance of the technology. EtherCAT has been firmly established both with vendors and users and has been deployed successfully in a massive variety of applications."

Alois Allgaier, business unit manager for control Engineering at Multivac, explains the decision to join the ETG: "EtherCAT provides a big step forward technologically. Our cycle times have been optimized and our machines are even more efficient and reliable today. Thanks to Safety over EtherCAT, we can also meet our functional safety requirements with the same base technology. So to Multivac,

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membership in the ETG is obvious. The effective structure of the ETG allows users to become involved and put forth our points of view in order to advance EtherCAT technology.“

EtherCAT sets new standards for real-time performance and topology flexibility, while meeting or undercutting traditional fieldbus cost levels. EtherCAT features include high-precision device synchronization, cable redundancy options, and a functional safety protocol (SIL3). EtherCAT is an international standard (IEC, ISO and SEMI).

The **EtherCAT Technology Group** (ETG) is an organization in which key user companies from various industries and leading automation suppliers join forces to support, promote and advance EtherCAT Technology. With over 1000 members from 45 countries, the EtherCAT Technology Group has become the largest organization in the world that is exclusively focused on Industrial Ethernet technologies. Founded in November 2003, it is also currently the fastest growing fieldbus organization.

For further information please see www.ethercat.org