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EtherCAT Technology Group opens new Conformance Test Center in Japan

To best serve the large number of EtherCAT device vendors in Japan, the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) has opened the first EtherCAT Test Center (ETC) outside of Europe in Kyoto, Japan. This new ETC is operated by the Advanced Software Technology and Mechatronics Research Institute of Kyoto (ASTEM).

At the opening ceremony for the Kyoto ETC, ASTEM President and Professor, Dr. Yukihiro Nakamura underlined the extensive experience of his institute with conformance testing. ASTEM has been in charge of operating fieldbus testing facilities since 1996. "We are proud that with EtherCAT we are now supporting the most exciting and newest generation of communication technology, for which many implementations in Japan and Asia are already under way," Dr. Nakamura said. Martin Rostan, ETG Executive Director, and Dr. Nakamura signed the ETC cooperation agreement at the event. For the "ribbon" cutting ceremony, the ribbon had been replaced with a yellow Ethernet cable, reminiscent of the core technology used by EtherCAT.

Takeshi Kameda, ETG Representative Japan, highlighted the short but successful history of EtherCAT in Japan: "By establishing the first test center outside Europe in Kyoto, the ETG clearly honors both the rapid growth of the organization in this country as well as its strong automation device vendor community, which is adopting EtherCAT at a rapid pace," he said. "Having an EtherCAT Test Center here will further increase the acceptance of EtherCAT in Japan."

The opening ceremony was attended by representatives from the city of Kyoto as well as from local ETG member Omron, who is providing initial technical support to establish the test center, but is not involved in its operation. ASTEM's EtherCAT Test Center personnel are receiving training at the original EtherCAT Test Center in Nuremberg, Germany, in order to ensure a uniform test process regardless of the Test Center location. The Kyoto Test Center will be fully operational in a few weeks from now, serving the Japanese as well as the overall Asian EtherCAT community.

EtherCAT Technology Group
Martin Rostan
Ostendstraße 196
90482 Nürnberg
Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 20
Fax: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 29
m.rostan@ethercat.org
www.ethercat.org

Press Contact
Andrea Bock

Phone: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 225
Fax: +49 (0) 9 11 / 5 40 56 29
press@ethercat.org
www.ethercat.org/presse/

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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 47 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 also see **www.ethercat.org**

Press pictures



Picture caption:

EtherCAT Test Center in Kyoto: Martin Rostan (Executive Director, EtherCAT Technology Group) and Prof. Dr. Yukihiro Nakamura (President, ASTEM) after signing the co-operation agreement

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Picture caption:

EtherCAT Test Center in Kyoto: Takeshi Kameda (ETG Representative Japan), Prof. Dr. Yukihiro Nakamura (President, ASTEM), Martin Rostan (Executive Director, ETG) and Eiji Ikeno (General Manager Motion Control, Omron) at the opening ceremony