

ETG membership growth defies global crisis

In a recent statement, Martin Rostan, Executive Director of the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG), summarized the global situation as follows: "In times of crisis, we come across many supposedly motivating quotes. There is talk of lemons that become lemonade, or of doors that close so that others can open. But let's be honest: A crisis is not a good thing, and no amount of talk about it will help. And neither is the historical crisis we are currently experiencing. Nevertheless, crises enable us to examine ourselves and our actions, even if we are forced to do so. Are we using the right strategies, the right technologies? If not, now is the time to innovate, which will ultimately allow us to emerge stronger from the crisis."

In the world of industrial automation, choosing the right bus system is critical to future developments. The bus system defines system performance at least as much as the controller. But it is the bus system that determines the choice of components and their manufacturers. As such, it has a major impact on the overall cost of the control system. It determines whether or not a centralized control architecture can be used. In fact, it is the bus cycle time that determines whether the control system cycle time is truly usable, and by which response times are ultimately determined.

Thus, the best control performance is of little value if it cannot be optimally utilized with the help of a fast bus system. Due to its unique operating principle of frame processing in run-through, EtherCAT is the fastest Industrial Ethernet technology available - and thus precisely does not become a bottleneck for otherwise high-performance control systems. In short: EtherCAT runs and paves the way for innovation even in difficult times. Shorter response times speed up any application



Martin Rostan,
Executive Director
of ETG

with advanced switching conditions - even comparatively sluggish mechanics and shorter control times lead to better precision and thus to improved quality. EtherCAT is therefore not an end in itself, but an added value for almost all applications.

The membership development of ETG shows that many manufacturers and users have understood this: Even in the crisis the growth is unbroken. Of course, all this does not mean that the ETG had no challenges to master last year. On the contrary: The majority of its global activities usually require the EtherCAT experts to be present in person, and the organization had to act here at short notice and break new ground. By converting all face-to-face seminars and meetings into online formats, it was possible to prepare previous content in a more target-group-oriented manner. In summary, it can be said that ETG has taken a big step towards the future in terms of digitalization in the last 14 months.

The membership development of the ETG remains unbroken even in times of the pandemic.

