



# Profibus Newsletter

December 2006

## THE NEW TEAM

At the Annual General Meeting of the PROFIBUS User Group (PUG) SA held on 20th September, two new members were elected onto the PUG committee. Clinton Jensen (Phambili Interface) and Sheldon Olivier (CBI) join Dieter Dilchert (Lapp Cable), Ed Bauer (ABB), Steve Venter (Siemens), Piet Ferreira (SASOL), Tony Jacobsen (Endress+Hauser) and Rob MacKenzie (Phoenix Contact).

At the committee meeting on 18th October, Dieter Dilchert was re-elected as Chairman of the PUG.

On behalf of Dieter and the PUG committee, we would like to wish all our PROFIBUS members and users the very best for the festive season and for 2007.

## NEXT STOP ... SPS/IPC/DRIVES

PROFIBUS International would like to invite you to see the very latest and best of PROFIBUS and PROFINET at what is fast becoming one of the best events on the worldwide automation calendar: the SPS/IPC/DRIVES show in Nuremberg, which takes place from November 28 to 30 this year.

Interbus and PNO will be exhibiting side by side once again with a joint booth and hospitality suite. On the PNO side about 40 co-exhibitors will lead you through topics such as IO-Link, PROFIBUS and PROFINET.

One of the highlights will be a huge PROFINET presentation but there will be something for everyone, whether end-user, manufacturer, developer, integrator, maintenance engineer, or a 'decider', PNO will answer all questions and deliver what, for you, could be a vital insight into the exciting and dynamic world of PROFIBUS and PROFINET automation.

## International News

### PROFIBUS MAKES NEWS IN THE USA

The 2006 PTO (North American PROFIBUS organisation) General Assembly meeting took place in Scottsdale, AZ, in August. Over 50 members and representatives listened to wide ranging discussions about technical and marketing issues, and the future strategy of the PTO and its parent organisation, PI.

PTO Chairman and PI Deputy Chairman Mike Bryant said that being market leader posed some challenges: "We must watch out for new technologies and paradigm shifts, and we must never forget that our competition is always biting at our heels," he said, "complacency could be our biggest enemy".

The broadening technical scope of the organisation - now rang-

ing from sensors to IT - means we have to adapt. "PROFIBUS will continue to be the most successful fieldbus ever," he said, going on to predict that 30 000 000 PROFIBUS devices will be installed by 2011.

He warned: "PROFIBUS growth will eventually flatten so we must face those challenges now."

Mike also predicted a shakeout of Ethernet solutions within five years, with just three serious contenders remaining and said that PROFINET has moved from being a fieldbus technology to an 'automation technology', with all that entails.

He concluded by announcing a new mission statement for PI, the international organisation of which PTO is part: "We are and will remain the world's leading automation organisation for communication solutions, serving our users, our members and the press with the best solutions, benefits and information."

## CERTIFICATION: WHAT IT MEANS

PROFINET and PROFIBUS devices of different types and manufacturers perform different tasks in the automation process. In order to do this correctly, they must exchange information over the bus as specified in the corresponding standards.

Basis for the certification is the framework for testing and certification of PROFIBUS/PROFINET products and the test specifications as well as the relevant standards. The documents can be found at 'downloads' on the PI website. Thus, users can get the necessary security for error-free functionality during the common operation of devices of different manufacturers. Similarly, the certification ensures the standard compliant behaviour within a PROFIBUS or PROFINET network, as defined by IEC 61158.

Both PROFIBUS and PROFINET devices are checked in a certification test, which is performed by experts in special PI Test Labs (PITLs). Only certified devices guarantee worldwide conformity in an automation facility with products from different manufacturers. For PROFIBUS devices, certification is strongly recommended by PI and demanded by many end-users. For PROFINET products, certification is mandatory.

For more information on certification, please take a look at the 'quality assurance' tab under <http://www.profibus.com/pb/technology/description>. If you are a local developer, the local PCC office here in South Africa can also be of assistance, go to <http://www.profibuscentre.co.za>.

For more information on PUGSA contact Rob MacKenzie on (011) 801 8200 or [robm@phoenixcontact.co.za](mailto:robm@phoenixcontact.co.za).