



PROFIBUS
PROCESS FIELD BUS

Profibus Newsletter

February 2006

The User Group

First of all, the Profibus User Group would like to wish all their members, and users of Profibus products, very best wishes for the year ahead.

December and January are of course a fairly quiet time for an organisation such as ours here in South Africa, the first User Group meeting only taking place on the 25th of January, two days after this newsletter is written.

This however is not the case in Europe and the USA and I will be focusing on some more international news in this newsletter.

Forthcoming events

Look out for our next Profibus Training seminar to be held at CHI in February 2006, and the Profibus Breakfast in Cape Town in March 2006. Look on our web-site www.profibus.co.za for details.

Training

The Profibus Competence Center is of course up and running for 2006, for details of upcoming training courses, go to www.profibuscentre.co.za.

Membership

Membership registration is now open for 2006. We are looking for more users to join the group and in addition to the advantages such as close contact and interface to Profibus product and service providers, we also offer subsidised training from the Profibus Competence Center. Contact Kessi at kessi.coetzee@za.endress.com for an application form.

International News

November in Germany is time for the SPS/IPC/DRIVES Electric Automation exhibition and conference. This event held in Nuremburg is widely recognised now as the premier automation fair in Germany and is used by many companies and organisations to launch new products and ideas. PROFIBUS International of course was there and presented results of the second "Fieldbus Survey" conducted by the ARC Advisory Board, an international market research firm.

The ARC Fieldbus Survey 2005 is based on approximately

230 responses worldwide and shows that more and more users are currently planning new projects with state-of-the-art fieldbus technology.

Applications that only integrate process instruments are more and more the exception. In contrast, hybrid applications dominate process automation, even when only a few drives, circuit breakers or simple digital I/O devices have to be connected. PROFIBUS International (PI) claims that PROFIBUS is the only solution with which both discrete field devices and process instruments can be attached. As a result, the total cost of ownership is reduced while at the same time significantly reducing the time for commissioning and for service activities. PI Chairman Edgar Küster explains, "The survey very clearly confirms the importance of solutions for hybrid applications in regards to process automation. The question of the relevance of integrating process and device fieldbuses received the highest agreement among all criteria mentioned with 88%. In contrast, with increasing experience with 'control in the field' the benefit of this function is in doubt."

The complete press release and powerpoint slides can be downloaded from the web-page <http://www.profibus.com/newsandevents/press/texte/08272/index.html>

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Also available at the web-page is the new ARC White Paper on PROFINET which offers a business perspective, technical detail as well as five case studies of the use of PROFINET. Go to <http://www.profibus.com/newsandevents/press/texte/08272/index.html> to download.

For enquiries contact Rob MacKenzie on (011) 801 8200



Edgar Küster, PROFIBUS INTERNATIONAL Chairman at the SPS/IPC/DRIVES Electric Automation exhibition conference in November 2005



Profibus ARC White Paper