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PROCESS FIELD BUS
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Profibus Newsletter

February 2007

A warm welcome from the PROFIBUS User Group committee to our members and clients for the New Year. 2007 is a year of activity for the PROFIBUS User Group in South Africa, but first some international news...

International News SPS/IPC/DRIVES NEWS – IF YOU MISSED IT

A large booth shared with the Interbus Club and featuring a forum theatre and a common lounge, saw PROFIBUS and PROFINET technology given massive coverage at SPS/IPC/Drives. Attracting over 43 000 visitors, this fair is now one of the leading automation events in Europe, perhaps even the world.



A press conference on Day 2 saw three announcements from PROFIBUS International (PI), including the news that PROFIBUS has become the first fieldbus to achieve Chinese national GB/T status.

Other announcements included the news that the Tool Calling Interface (TCI) specification has been completed after less than a year's work. TCI offers a vendor independent way of calling proprietary and open engineering tools, thereby providing a consistent interface for end-users. The automotive industry particularly needs this capability because of the diversity of tools they have to use, notably with drives. TCI can integrate EDD and FDT technologies too.



PI also announced the release of the 'PROFINET and MES Maintenance Operations' guideline, which describes interface functions that support MES systems. These provide consistent communication with PROFINET from the field level up to top management, making it easier to switch from preventive maintenance to condition monitoring in systems and machines.

The PI booth also featured an 8 m PROFINET wall packed with dozens of products. This attracted much attention and seemed to finally convince sceptics that PROFINET is not only here to stay but that its scope and performance is way ahead of any other Industrial Ethernet solution.

Local News A BUSY YEAR FOR THE PROFIBUS COMPETENCE CENTRE

In 2007, 18 Certified PROFIBUS Engineers and 34 Certified PROFIBUS Installers passed through the South African PCC. Congratulations to the following new Certified PROFIBUS Engineers:



- Phillip Nel (Kansanshi Mining PLC)
- Phillip Norman Lawson (Kansanshi Mining PLC)
- Stephen Scheepers (ABB South Africa)
- Marius Byliefeldt (De Beers - Venetia Mine)

- Donald James McDiarmid (UIC Control & Automation)
- Louis Jesaias de Necker (UIC Control & Automation)
- Dawid Johannes Bernardus Botes (Bateman Engineering)
- Jan Daniel Schmidt (Metso)
- Russell Du Plessis (De Beers, Group Technical Services)
- Mark Kemp (Namdeb)
- Marcel Bernhardt (EcoServe)
- Jan Southerland (Namdeb)
- Alden Cloete (NamZinc)
- Marius van der Walt (Profitek)
- Martin Vermaak (CI Shurlok)
- Henk Steyn (NamPower)
- Varundew Nundkishore (Alpret Emerson/Rosemount)
- Kevin Swamy (Sappi Kraft)

Accreditation

Are you an Accredited PROFIBUS Company? As an Accredited PROFIBUS Company, the PROFIBUS User Group will support your design, integration or installation company from tender to commissioning of PROFIBUS networks. For more information contact Rob MacKenzie at robm@phoenixcontact.co.za

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS!

Process Show 2007

The Process Show has traditionally been the flagship of the PROFIBUS User Group for the launch and display of new technology. 2007 promises the highest participation so far. The Process Show 2007 runs from 15 to 18 May 2007 at the National Exhibition Centre, Johannesburg.

PROFIBUS Breakfasts

As has become tradition, the PROFIBUS breakfast will be held in conjunction with the Process Show, on the 16th of May. We are very lucky this year to have Edgar Küster, Chairman of PROFIBUS International, as the speaker. Edgar's presentation will be the transformation of PI from a fieldbus organisation to an automation organisation and will introduce PROFINET for the process industry. After the success of the 2005 breakfast in Durban, we can also announce that the 2007 Durban breakfast with Edgar Küster will be on Friday 11th May.



Contact Kessi on kessi.coetzee@za.endress.com should you wish to book a seat.

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